

AAA Avalanche Professional Training
2011

SCHEDULE
ASPEN HIGHLANDS, CO

NOTE: This schedule is dependent upon the weather, control schedules, and other details. Daily plans will be announced by the instructors.

- Feb. 26** ***Introduction and Rescue***
0800 Orientation, Introduction, and Releases
 Course Objectives, Schedule, Expectations and Measures
 Pre-Test Review
 Field Gear Overview
 Rescue overview: current trends
 Overview of Ski area rescue plan & inter area rescue
 Traumatic injuries in avalanches
 Field Session
 Rescue response – in area
 - dog use, RECCO, hasty search with beacons
 - secondary response, probe lines
 Beacon operation, function & range checks
 Proficiency test: Single beacon recovery
 Multiple Beacon Recovery demo & practice
 Improvised and Spot Probing
 Rescue scenario
 Probe line techniques: recent research
 Proficiency test: Multiple beacon recovery (as time allows)
1600 *Return to classroom*
 Season History Review
 Stability rose and pit documentation, forecasting worksheet
 Daily weather and avalanche briefing (including local internet
 weather resources).
1830 Adjourn
 Homework: Review field book pages and update as necessary
- Feb. 27** ***Terrain Evaluation, Avalanche Observations, Group Management
and Snow Dynamics***
0730 Daily weather and avalanche briefing – students
 Avalanche Classification Review
 Control strategies for different avalanche situations
 Explosives safety and record-keeping, new products and problems
 with old ones
 Industrial avalanche mitigation & forecasting strategies
 Field Session
 Shot selection, placement, and route management
 Ski cutting and cornice control
 Test + pit demonstration and practice
 Return to classroom
1630 Repeated mistakes of avalanche professionals
 Post control release case study and insights
1900 Adjourn

AAA Avalanche Professional Training
2011

Homework: Review Avalanche Character Checklist

Feb. 28 ***Lindley Hut - Weather, Avalanche Control, and Decision Making***

0730 Daily weather and avalanche briefing
Grain Quiz/Metamorphism overview
Surface Hoar
Wet Snow
Crusts

Field Session

Tour to Lindley Hut

Terrain Discussion

Study Profile – Demo/Practice - perform in teams of 2
At Hut

Decision-making – tips and traps

1800 ***Done***

Mar. 1 ***Lindley Hut - Snowpack dynamics and avalanche mechanics***

0740 Daily weather and avalanche briefing
Fracture mechanics and skier triggering
Slab properties and their affect on avalanche triggering

Field Session

Tour – route-finding, terrain analysis, group management
Spatial Variability and the limitations of formal stability tests

Back at the hut

1700 Stability vs. Time – Trends and Patterns in Avalanche Forecasting

Deep Slab prediction & mitigation

Homework: Stability worksheet completion

Mar. 2 ***Tour out from Lindley Hut***

0730 Daily weather and avalanche briefing

B/C tour emphasizing targeted sampling for a multi-elevation, multi-aspect forecast

1600 Weather forecasting primer

1730 Forecasting methodology and scenario - June Mountain or Valdez

Mar. 3 ***DAY OFF***

Practice field skills, explore area, get some sleep, formulate questions

Mar. 4

0730 ***Daily weather briefing***

0800 Forecasting Challenges of a Forecast Center

In the Public eye

FIELD SESSION

Study plot procedures

AAA Avalanche Professional Training
2011

- snow board measurement and documentation
- anemometer problems and troubleshooting
- water equivalent of new snow and precip can maintenance

Tour involving more test + pit analysis/Beacon work

1630 *Return to classroom - TBD*

1800 Adjourn
Homework: Review stability worksheets
Hand in field books for preliminary feedback

Mar. 5 ***Terrain and field exams***

0730 Daily weather and avalanche briefing

0900 *Leave for field*

Exam: snowpit technique and documentation

Exam: Multiple beacons

Return to Classroom

Return to Classroom

1730 Open Q & A session

1800 Adjourn

Mar. 6 ***Field proficiency and final exam***

0730 Daily weather and avalanche briefing at roadhead

Tour emphasis TBD by participant interest

Return to Classroom

Final Exam/Fieldbook evaluation

Exam review

Wrap-up, evaluations

1700 Done