

National Ski Patrol Avalanche Programs

Attribute	Mountain Avalanche Awareness	Avalanche Fundamentals and Rescue	Level I Avalanche	Level II Avalanche
Duration	1 day	1-1/2 days	2 days	4 days
Location	Offered within Regions	Offered within Regions (<i>most likely to be offered w/in Genesee Valley during 2002-3</i>)	Avalanche terrain (Mt. Washington, etc.)	Avalanche terrain (Mt. Washington, etc.)
Basis of Program	NSP offering, predominately Eastern, Central, & Southern Divisions	NSP offering	Consistent with American Avalanche Association	Consistent with American Avalanche Association
Senior Elective	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Meets prerequisite for Level II	No	Yes	Yes	-
Classroom work	Yes (about 8 hours)	Yes (about 8 hours)	Yes (about 8 hours)	Yes (about 16 hours)
Probing practice	Limited practice	Yes	Yes	Yes
Beacon	Discussion - limited practice	Practice (buried beacons)	Practice (buried beacons)	Practice (buried beacons)
Snow Pit	Discussion	Limited snow analysis	Yes	Yes (extensive field time)
Rescue Simulation	Discussion	Yes	Yes	Yes (extensive field time)

Updated 01/18/02

NEW AVALANCHE INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL AND CURRICULUM UPDATES

In January 2002 the new NSP Avalanche Instructor's Manual will become available outlining the new NSP curriculum guidelines that are updated to conform to the AAA and USFS standards.

All avalanche instructors should obtain a copy from the NSP Catalog and review the contents to become familiar with the curriculum updates and the requirements to maintain instructor status.

Highlights that are most important for all of us to be aware of and implement this season include:

- Basic and Advanced Avalanche Courses have been renamed Level I and Level II Avalanche Courses and must be in conformity with the NSP curriculum guidelines outlined in the new manual.
- **Level I** course requires 16 hours of instruction (8 hours classroom and 8 hours field work) so it must be a full two-day course.
- **Level II** course requires 13 hours classroom instruction and 2.5 days field work so it must be a full four-day course.
- A new course has been added to aid instructors in those areas that do not have the terrain and/or snow-pack to complete a full Level I field session. This course is called **Avalanche Fundamentals and Rescue** and it qualifies as a prerequisite for the Level II course and as a senior elective. In conducting this course instructors must complete all of the classroom work required for the Level I course plus an abbreviated field session. This field session should cover as much of the Level I curriculum as the location will allow. During this abbreviated field session all aspects of avalanche rescue should be covered to the fullest extent possible. The Avalanche Fundamentals course requires 12 hours of instruction (8 hours classroom and 4 hours field work) and must be presented in a two-day format.
- Those instructors wishing to offer only a one day course will have the opportunity to present a revised **Mountain-Avalanche Awareness** Course that is derived from the Mountain Awareness Course recently developed by the National Ski Patrol. This course will be an 8 hour course that is an abbreviated version of the Avalanche Fundamentals course. It will count as a senior elective, but will not count as a prerequisite to the Level II Avalanche course. This course will not appear in the new Avalanche Instructors Manual but will be described in the new version of the Mountain-Avalanche Awareness Guidelines for Instructors Manual that is currently under revision and will be released shortly.
- The National Avalanche Committee strongly encourages, but does not require, that non-NSP students in avalanche courses apply for affiliate membership in NSP.

One of the goals of the new manual is to bring the NSP avalanche curriculum more in line with other avalanche organizations and to update our teaching materials to keep pace with changing terminology, technology, and ideas. The National Avalanche Committee believes that it is incumbent upon all of us involved in NSP avalanche education to maintain our credibility in the avalanche world by 1) ensuring that our courses adhere to the guidelines set forth in the new manual and 2) ensuring that our courses and instructors are of the highest quality possible.