

Avalanche

ACTION CHECKLIST

Stay out of avalanche terrain when conditions are unsafe. Read the local avalanche forecast before travel and choose a safer route; rescue equipment does not make a dangerous slope safe. If someone is buried, call rescue and start companion rescue only where you can avoid another avalanche.

[] Check conditions before departure

Consult the local avalanche center and get training before entering snow-covered backcountry.

[] Choose terrain deliberately

Avoid avalanche paths and slopes identified in the forecast; turn around when uncertain.

[] Carry and know rescue gear

Each person needs a transceiver, probe and shovel and practiced companion rescue skills.

[] If an avalanche occurs

Note the last seen location, call rescue and assess continuing danger before searching.

WATCH FOR

Do not enter unstable terrain for an untrained rescue that may create more victims.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

Without a working phone, prevention and trained companion rescue are even more important. Stay on terrain you have assessed as safe; do not enter a dangerous slope to find reception. Carry a written route and turnaround time with a trusted contact.

Updated 2026-10-02 | Civilian educational guidance. Seek qualified help when reachable and safe; do not delay immediate protective action.

Full guide: <https://ospreyzero.com/emergencies/avalanche/>

Avalanche · official guidance