

Avalanche Awareness Courses

FOR SKIERS AND SNOWBOARDERS

LOCATION	PROVIDER/CONTACT	LECTURE	FIELD DAY
Mt RUAPEHU	MSC Taumaranui, Peter Panton 07 895 7667 panton@xtra.co.nz	26 July Whakapapa fire station 16 August Whakapapa fire station 30 August Whakapapa fire station 13 September Whakapapa fire station	27 July Whakapapa ski area 17 August Whakapapa ski area 31 August Whakapapa ski area 14 September Whakapapa ski area
	Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, Chris Emmett 027 220 3226 cemmett@ruapehu.com	21 July Turoa ski area base 5 August Turoa ski area base 10 September Turoa ski area base	22 July Turoa ski area 6 August Turoa ski area 11 September Turoa ski area
	Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, Andy Hoyle 07 892 3410 ext 7870 027 544 4258 ahoyle@mtruapehu.com	28 July Whakapapa fire station 27 August Whakapapa fire station 17 September Whakapapa fire station	29 July Whakapapa ski area 28 August Whakapapa ski area 18 September Whakapapa ski area
TARANAKI	MSC Taranaki, Gayle Tricklebank 06 753 5021 taranaki@mountainsafety.org.nz	19 July Fitzroy Surf Club	20 July Maunganui ski area
Mt CHEESEMAN	MSC Canterbury, Sandy Stanway 03 313 0507 canterbury@mountainsafety.org.nz	19 July Mt Cheeseman ski area base 26 July Mt Cheeseman ski area base 30 August Mt Cheeseman ski area base	20 July Mt Cheeseman ski area 27 July Mt Cheeseman ski area 31 August Mt Cheeseman ski area
METHVEN	MSC Ashburton, Stephen Philip 03 308 0342 ashburton@mountainsafety.org.nz	1 August Mt Hutt College	2 August Mt Hutt ski area
WANAKA	MSC Wanaka, Jess Townshend 03 443 8584 wanaka@mountainsafety.org.nz	19 July Mt Aspiring College 2 August Mt Aspiring College 6 September Mt Aspiring College	20 July Treble Cone ski area 3 August Treble Cone ski area 7 September Treble Cone ski area
QUEENSTOWN	MSC Wakatipu, Bridget Newman 03 409 2423 wakatipu@mountainsafety.org.nz	11 July Queenstown Police Station 25 July Queenstown Police Station 8 August Queenstown Police Station	12 July Remarkables ski area 26 July Remarkables ski area 9 August Remarkables ski area

LOCATION	PROVIDER/CONTACT	LECTURE	FIELD DAY
QUEENSTOWN		22 August Queenstown Police Station 13 September Queenstown Police Station	23 August Remarkables ski area 13 September Remarkables ski area
SOUTHLAND	MSC Southland, Louise Craig 03 217 0303 southland@mountainsafety.org.nz	25 July Queenstown Police Station	26 July Remarkables ski area

FOR CLIMBERS AND TRAMPERS

LOCATION	PROVIDER/CONTACT	LECTURE	FIELD DAY
TARANAKI	MSC Taranaki, Gayle Tricklebank 06 753 5021 taranaki@mountainsafety.org.nz	23 August Fitzroy Surf Club	24 August Maunganui ski area
Mt CHEESEMAN	MSC Canterbury, Sandy Stanway 03 313 0507 canterbury@mountainsafety.org.nz	16 August Mt Cheeseman ski area base	17 August Mt Cheeseman ski area
WANAKA	MSC Wanaka, Jess Townshend 03 443 8584 wanaka@mountainsafety.org.nz	26 September Mt Aspiring College	27-28 September Cardrona ski area

Backcountry Awareness Courses

LOCATION	PROVIDER/CONTACT	1st WEEKEND	2nd WEEKEND
Mt RUAPEHU	MSC Taumaranui, Peter Panton 07 895 7667 panton@xtra.co.nz	2-3 August	9-10 August
	Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, Andy Hoyle 07 892 3410 ext 7870 027 544 4258 ahoyle@mtruapehu.com	11-12 October	18-19 October
METHVEN	MSC Ashburton, Stephen Philip 03 308 0342 ashburton@mountainsafety.org.nz	18-19 July	25-27 July
WANAKA	MSC Wanaka, Jess Townshend 03 443 8584 wanaka@mountainsafety.org.nz	23-24 August	30-31 August
QUEENSTOWN	MSC Wakatipu, Bridget Newman 03 409 2423 wakatipu@mountainsafety.org.nz	16-19 August (4 consecutive days)	

Avalanche Awareness

TRAINING PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

New Zealand Mountain Safety Council (MSC) has offered avalanche awareness training for over 25 years. Avalanche Awareness courses for skiers, snowboarders and climbers provide a first step to gaining an appreciation of the avalanche phenomenon and what is needed to make decisions about personal safety when travelling in avalanche terrain.

As a second step, MSC offers a Backcountry Avalanche course for those interested in developing more advanced observation and route finding skills for winter recreation in the mountains.

Both courses focus on avoiding the need for avalanche related rescue, but also dedicate time to learning the technical skills required for rescuing a companion or small party.

The Avalanche Awareness course is a prerequisite for the Backcountry Avalanche course.

CONTENT

The Avalanche Awareness course involves both a lecture and a field day. The course covers:

- Mountain weather
- Identification of avalanche terrain
- Basic route finding and decision making
- Companion rescue
- Safety equipment (including use of transceivers).

The Backcountry Avalanche course is provided over two weekends. The course covers:

- Characteristics of avalanche phenomenon
- Snowpack factors (layers, crystal ID, basic metamorphosis)
- Observation techniques
- Human factors
- Group travel in avalanche terrain
- Small party search and rescue.

Course content for both programmes was developed and is moderated by MSC to ensure national standards.

LECTURES

A lecture is held in the evening prior to each field day, and lasts around two and a half hours. Attendance is a prerequisite for the field days, and attendees are encouraged to bring a notepad.

FIELD DAYS

Field days focus on practical aspects and last all day. For Avalanche Awareness a 'Certificate of Attendance' is issued by the provider. For Backcountry Avalanche a 'Certificate of Completion' is issued following an assessment.

The provider will supply the following details on receipt of payment:

- What to bring
- What is provided
- What the course fee includes
- Where to meet
- Postponement and cancellation provisions

Some providers have safety equipment. However participants should bring their own transceiver (457 kHz only), shovel (metal preferred) and collapsible probe (180cm minimum) if possible.

INSTRUCTORS

All instructors are qualified avalanche professionals who have been vetted and registered by MSC. Most work in the mountain environment as guides or ski patrollers and have valuable and extensive experience to share with course participants.

SAFETY

MSC courses are operated under specific operational procedures and safety plans. All participants are required to follow instructions to ensure safe practices are maintained.

Most Avalanche Awareness courses will be run within the confines of a commercially operated ski area. Backcountry Avalanche courses will be run outside a ski area but will use these facilities for access and egress.

BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

Visit: www.mountainsafety.org.nz/registrations/ to register for courses. Payment at time of registration is required to secure attendance. Only online registrations shall be acknowledged. Numbers are limited due to safety requirements with respect to instructor:student ratios.

Avalanche Awareness course costs \$75, Backcountry Avalanche course costs \$500; additional costs such as lift tickets, transport and accommodation vary depending on the venue. Please contact the branch administrators for details on fees and course information.

RESOURCES

MANUALS

Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain
The Avalanche Handbook
Backcountry Avalanche Awareness
Alpine Skills and more...

PAMPHLET

Using Avalanche Transceivers



This pamphlet has been printed on paper from sustainable forests and with vegetable-based inks.

For resources contact:

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PO Box 6027 Wellington 6141
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Email: orders@mountainsafety.org.nz
www.mountainsafety.org.nz
www.avalanche.net.nz
www.incidentreport.org.nz



OUTDOOR SAFETY

Printed 04/08

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TRAINING PROGRAMME 2008



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