

# Avalanche Awareness

## TRAINING PROGRAMME

### INTRODUCTION

The 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 terrain that may be exposed to avalanche hazards.

MSC also provides 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 skills needed for personal safety, but also dedicate time to learning how to rescue 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 four days.

The course covers:

- Characteristics of avalanche phenomenon
- Snowpack factors
- Human factors that influence decision making
- Group travel
- 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 about 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 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 (This depends on the need for accommodation; lift tickets and/or transport. Course fees are for the instruction only.)
- 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 avalanche professionals. 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 courses will be run within the confines of a commercially operated ski area. Backcountry Avalanche courses may be run outside a ski area but will use these facilities for access and egress.

### BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

Local contact details are listed in the calendar. Payment at time of registration is required to secure attendance. Numbers are limited due to safety requirements with respect to instructor-student ratios. Minimum age requirements apply.

Avalanche Awareness course fee (only) - \$75, Backcountry Avalanche course fee (only) \$500; additional costs such as lift tickets, transport and accommodation vary depending on the venue and course. Avalanche safety gear is available for hire in most locations.

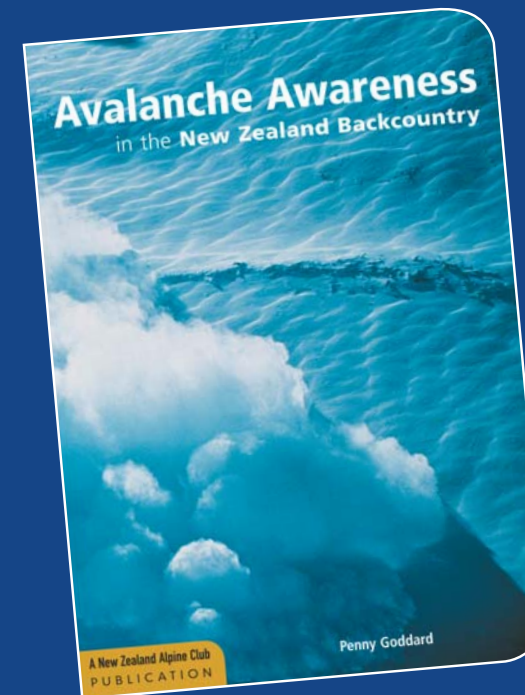
### RESOURCES

#### MANUALS

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

#### PAMPHLET

Using Avalanche Transceivers



**\$30**  
+p&p

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



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For resources contact:

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL  
PO Box 6027 Wellington 6141  
Tel 04 385 7162, Fax 04 385 7366  
Email: orders@mountainsafety.org.nz  
www.mountainsafety.org.nz  
www.avalanche.net.nz  
www.incidentreport.org.nz

# Avalanche Awareness

## TRAINING PROGRAMME 2009



NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL

# Avalanche Awareness Courses 2009

## AVALANCHE AWARENESS COURSES FOR SKIERS AND SNOWBOARDERS

LOCATION	PROVIDER/CONTACT	LECTURE	FIELD DAY
<b>MT RUAPEHU</b>	MSC Taumarunui, Peter Zimmer 07 895 4445 peteoutdoors@gmail.com	<b>1 August</b> Venue: Whakapapa fire station	<b>2 August</b> Venue: Whakapapa ski area
<b>TUROA</b>	Ruapehu Alpine Lifts: Ruapehu Guides 07 892 3738 bcguide@mtruaapehu.com	<b>23 July</b> Venue: Ruapehu College <b>10 August</b> Venue: Ruapehu College <b>9 September</b> Venue: Ruapehu College	<b>24 July</b> Venue: Turoa ski area <b>11 August</b> Venue: Turoa ski area <b>10 September</b> Venue: Turoa ski area
<b>WHAKAPAPA</b>	Ruapehu Alpine Lifts: Ruapehu Guides 07 892 3738 bcguide@mtruaapehu.com	<b>3 August</b> Venue: Whakapapa fire station <b>2 September</b> Venue: Whakapapa fire station <b>21 September</b> Venue: Whakapapa fire station	<b>4 August</b> Venue: Whakapapa ski area <b>3 September</b> Venue: Whakapapa ski area <b>22 September</b> Venue: Whakapapa ski area
<b>TARANAKI</b>	MSC Taranaki, Gayle Tricklebank 06 753 5021 taranaki@mountainsafety.org.nz	<b>18 July</b> Venue: Fitzroy Surf Club	<b>19 July</b> Maunganui ski area
<b>CANTERBURY</b>	MSC Canterbury, Sandy Stanway 03 313 0507 canterbury@mountainsafety.org.nz	<b>18 July</b> Venue: Snowline Lodge <b>7 August</b> Venue: Forest Lodge <b>8 August</b> Venue: Snowline Lodge	<b>19 July</b> Venue: Mt Cheeseman ski area <b>8 August</b> Venue: Mt Cheeseman ski area <b>9 August</b> Venue: Mt Cheeseman ski area
<b>WANAKA</b>	MSC Wanaka, Jess Townshend 03 443 5048 wanaka@mountainsafety.org.nz	<b>17 July</b> Venue: Mt Aspiring College <b>31 July</b> Venue: Mt Aspiring College <b>4 September</b> Venue: Mt Aspiring College	<b>18 July</b> Venue: Treble Cone ski area <b>1 August</b> Venue: Treble Cone ski area <b>5 September</b> Venue: Treble Cone ski area
<b>QUEENSTOWN</b>	MSC Wakatipu, Bridget Newman 03 409 2025 wakatipu@mountainsafety.org.nz	<b>10 July</b> Venue: Queenstown Police Station <b>24 July</b> Venue: Queenstown Police Station <b>7 August</b> Venue: Queenstown Police Station <b>21 August</b> Venue: Queenstown Police Station <b>11 September</b> Venue: Queenstown Police Station	<b>11 July</b> Venue: Remarkables ski area <b>25 July</b> Venue: Remarkables ski area <b>8 August</b> Venue: Remarkables ski area <b>22 August</b> Venue: Remarkables ski area <b>12 September</b> Venue: Remarkables ski area

LOCATION	PROVIDER/CONTACT	LECTURE	FIELD DAY
<b>SOUTHLAND</b>	MSC Southland, Louise Craig 03 217 0303 southland@mountainsafety.org.nz	<b>24 July</b> Venue: Queenstown Police Station	<b>25 July</b> Venue: Remarkables ski area

## AVALANCHE AWARENESS COURSES FOR CLIMBERS AND TRAMPERS

LOCATION	PROVIDER/CONTACT	LECTURE	FIELD DAY
<b>TARANAKI</b>	MSC Taranaki, Gayle Tricklebank 06 753 5021 taranaki@mountainsafety.org.nz	<b>18 July</b> Venue: Fitzroy Surf Club	<b>19 July</b> Venue: Maunganui ski area
<b>CANTERBURY</b>	MSC Canterbury, Sandy Stanway 03 313 0507 canterbury@mountainsafety.org.nz	<b>10 July</b> Venue: Forest Lodge <b>11 July</b> Venue: Snowline Lodge	<b>11 July</b> Venue: Mt Cheeseman ski area <b>12 July</b> Venue: Mt Cheeseman ski area
<b>WANAKA</b>	MSC Wanaka, Jess Townshend 03 443 5048 wanaka@mountainsafety.org.nz	<b>23 September</b> Venue: Mt Aspiring College	<b>24-25 September</b> Venue: Cardrona ski area
<b>QUEENSTOWN</b>	MSC Wakatipu, Bridget Newman 03 409 2025 wakatipu@mountainsafety.org.nz	<b>24 July</b> Venue: Queenstown Police Station	<b>25 July</b> Venue: Remarkables ski area

## Backcountry Awareness Courses

LOCATION	PROVIDER/CONTACT	1st WEEKEND	2nd WEEKEND
<b>WHAKAPAPA</b>	Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, Andy Hoyle 07 892 3410 ext 7870 0275 444 258 ahoyle@mtruaapehu.com	11-12 October	18-19 October
<b>CANTERBURY</b>	MSC Canterbury, Sandy Stanway 03 313 0507 canterbury@mountainsafety.org.nz	15-16 August (Foot) 22-23 August (Ski/Board)	22-23 August 29-30 August
<b>WANAKA</b>	MSC Wanaka, Jess Townshend 03 443 5048 wanaka@mountainsafety.org.nz	16-19 August (4 consecutive days)	
<b>QUEENSTOWN</b>	MSC Wakatipu, Bridget Newman 03 409 2025 wakatipu@mountainsafety.org.nz	16-19 August (4 consecutive days)	