

Avalanche Course

National Ski Patrol, Level 1
Pajarito Mountain Ski Area, NM
February 2-5, 2012

Want to learn avalanche safety and rescue techniques? Backcountry Traveler?

This National Ski Patrol (NSP) Avalanche Level 1 course conforms to the curriculum of the American Avalanche Association (AAA), and includes both classroom lectures and on-the-snow field exercises, including the following topics:

- Avalanche triangle: terrain, snowpack, weather
- Beacon search, shoveling, and probing
- Safe travel in avalanche terrain
- Practical in-the-field snowpack stability evaluation methods
- Immediate search for buried victims
- Human factor – traveling in groups and effective leadership

The class will be taught by Greg Blackwell and Scott Hsu, NSP Alpine Senior Patrollers and certified Avalanche Level 1 instructors, with help from several other Level 1 and Level 2 avalanche-trained patrollers who have extensive backcountry ski/travel experience.

Course schedule (all to be held at Pajarito Mountain Ski Area, NM):

Thur., Feb. 2, 6-9:30pm: classroom

Fri., Feb. 3, 6-9:30pm: classroom

Sat., Feb. 4, 8:30am-4pm: field sessions (outdoors all day)

Sun., Feb. 5, 8:30am-3pm: field sessions (outdoors all day)

Course requirements: A good level of fitness and the ability to ski and move around in deep snow and steep terrain. You should show up to the field sessions booted up and ready to ski. You will need to bring a beacon, shovel, and probe, and be prepared to be outdoors (snow or shine) the entire day. Lift rides to field exercise locations will be included as part of the course registration. If you do not own beacon/shovel/probe, please acquire or borrow them from friends ahead of time. As a last resort, we have a few loaners on hand, but their availability cannot be guaranteed.

“Pre-work”: Upon enrollment, we will make arrangements to get you a copy of *Snow Sense* by Fredston & Fesler (included in the course fee), which you will use to complete a written assignment. The assignment must be completed and brought to the first classroom session.

Enrollment instructions: The enrollment will be divided approximately 50-50% between patrollers and members of the community, first-come first-served according to the date of receipt of the \$75 course enrollment fee (\$10 for NSP members), payable to Los Alamos Ski Club. The fee includes the *Snow Sense* book, lift privileges on the field session days, and an NSP certificate of course completion.

Please contact Greg Blackwell, gblackwe@unm.edu, to register.