North American Public Avalanche Danger Scale

Avalanche danger is determined by the likelihood, size, and distribution of avalanches.

Safe backcountry travel requires training and experience.

You control your risk by choosing when, where, and how you travel.

Danger Level

Travel Advice

5 - Extreme



Extraordinarily dangerous avalanche conditions.

Avoid all avalanche terrain

4 - High



Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain not recommended

3 - Considerable



Dangerous avalanche conditions. Careful snowpack evaluation, cautious route-finding, and conservative decision-making essential.

2 - Moderate



Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully; identify features of concern.

1 - Low



Generally safe avalanche conditions. Watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.