






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	Likelihood	Size and Distribution
5 - Extreme 	Extraordinarily dangerous avalanche conditions. Avoid all avalanche terrain.	Natural and human-triggered avalanches certain.	Very large avalanches in many areas.
4 - High 	Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain not recommended.	Natural avalanches likely; human-triggered avalanches very likely.	Large avalanches in many areas; or very large avalanches in specific areas.
3 - Considerable 	Dangerous avalanche conditions. Careful snowpack evaluation, cautious route-finding, and conservative decision-making essential.	Natural avalanches possible; human-triggered avalanches likely.	Small avalanches in many areas; or large avalanches in specific areas; or very large avalanches in isolated areas.
2 - Moderate 	Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully; identify features of concern.	Natural avalanches unlikely; human-triggered avalanches possible.	Small avalanches in specific areas; or large avalanches in isolated areas.
1 - Low 	Generally safe avalanche conditions. Watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.	Natural and human-triggered avalanches unlikely.	Small avalanches in isolated areas or extreme terrain.