

# 15-16 IDPR AVALANCHE AWARENESS & COMPANION RESCUE CLINIC SCHEDULE

**SOUTHEAST IDAHO:** Michael Robinson - (208) 525-7121 or Rich Gummersall - (208) 514-2414

Date & Time:	Location:	Course Type:
December 15th at 6:30PM	Idaho Falls - East Region Office	Avalanche Awareness PowerPoint (2 hours)
December 29th at 6:30PM	Island Park - Ponds Lodge	Avalanche Awareness PowerPoint (2 hours)
Date & Time:	Location:	Course Type:
January 15th at 6PM	Idaho Falls - East Region Office	Avalanche Awareness PowerPoint (2 hours)
January 16th at 9AM	Idaho Falls - Bone Rd Parking lot	Avalanche Awareness Companion Rescue (6 hours)
January 22nd at 6PM	Pocatello - USFS Building	Avalanche Awareness PowerPoint (2 hours)
January 23rd at 9AM	Pocatello - Crystal Summit Parking lot	Avalanche Awareness Companion Rescue (6 hours)
February 05th at 6PM	Driggs - USFS Building	Avalanche Awareness PowerPoint (2 hours)
February 06th at 9AM	Driggs - Horseshoe Canyon	Avalanche Awareness Companion Rescue (6 hours)
February 27th at 6PM	Preston - Robinson Building	Avalanche Awareness PowerPoint (2 hours)
February 28th at 9AM	Preston - Copenhagen Parking lot	Avalanche Awareness Companion Rescue (6 hours)



\*Be sure to reserve your seat in a class by calling well in advance or by visiting [www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov](http://www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov) and utilizing the online course registration on the Snowmobiling page...\*\*

***Field locations are subject to change due to snow conditions***

# 15-16 IDPR SNOWMOBILE OPERATORS CLASS SCHEDULE

**SOUTHEAST IDAHO:** Michael Robinson - (208) 525-7121 or Rich Gummersall - (208) 514-2414

Date & Time:	Location:	Course Type:
December 19th at 9AM	Idaho Falls - East Region Office	Snowmobile Operators PowerPoint (2 hours)
Field session to follow classroom session at the Bone road parking lot		Snowmobile Operators Field (6 hours)



***Classes without 4 students will be cancelled. Please pre-register!***

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***Field locations are subject to change due to snow conditions***

## EIGHT STEPS TO REDUCING YOUR AVALANCHE RISK

1. **Get smart!** The smart first step is to learn from the avalanche experts. This will take a commitment of time and effort on your part. Divide the task into three parts. First, take an avalanche course. Second, check out the videos on avalanche safety. Third, do some reading and expand on what you have learned.

### 2. Utilize your resources.

- WWW.AVALANCHE.ORG
- Sawtooth Avalanche Center  
(208) 622-8027
- Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center  
(208) 765-7323
- Payette Avalanche Center  
(208) 634-0409

3. **Identify avalanche terrain.** Avalanches run repeatedly year after year in the same areas/slopes called avalanche paths. Avalanches most often start on slopes of 30-45 degrees but sometimes start on slopes as shallow as 25 degrees and as steep as 50 degrees. Knowing the slope angle is “rule number one” in recognizing avalanche terrain, for once slope angles reach 30 degrees, you are in potential avalanche terrain regardless of all other factors.

4. **Read nature’s signs.** Sometimes the snow shows clear and present danger signs of avalanche. Some signs are a fresh avalanche, snow collapsing beneath you or creating noticeable cracks. Some weather signs that the hazard could be worsening fast are heavy snowfall -- more than one inch per hour -- or strong winds creating blowing snow and snow plumes off the ridges.

5. **Test the snow.** Look for test slopes where you can dig snowpits and perform stress tests. A test slope is a small, steep slope, preferably 30 degrees

or steeper, where you will not be in danger of causing an avalanche, but is close to a larger slope that you are concerned about. You can learn all about snowpits while attending Idaho Parks and Recreation’s Avalanche Awareness course.

6. **Travel smart.** There are several rules of safe backcountry travel that will help to minimize your avalanche risk. **One at a time.** Only one person at a time should go onto the slope. **Avoid the center.** The greatest danger on any steep slope comes when you are in the middle of it. **Stay on shallow slopes.** You can always travel on avalanche-free slopes up to 25 degrees. **Never ride alone.**

7. **Take your pulse.** In other words, check your attitude. It can get you in trouble. Are you so goal-oriented to climb this peak or highmark that slope that you are willing to take unwarranted risk? Do not overlook clear and present danger signs! Do not fall into peer pressure! Are you letting haste or fatigue get you in trouble? To prevent accidents from happening, you must control the human factor in your decision-making. Know your limitations.

8. **Be ready for rescue.** There are three parts to the rescue equation that will reduce your risk: what equipment to carry, what to do if you are caught, and what to do if a friend is caught.

**Rescue gear.** A snow shovel, probe and a beacon are the items that everyone who goes into the backcountry should not be without.

**Do not abandon the search or send searchers out for additional help: You are the buried victim’s best chance for survival.**

Since avalanches are the number one cause of snowmobile fatalities in the west, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation is presenting a **free** Snowmobile based Avalanche Awareness course near you. These practical and popular classes familiarize the winter backcountry enthusiast with hazard recognition and techniques for safe travel in avalanche terrain.

What to expect:

The program is divided into a classroom and field portion. Classroom sessions are a prerequisite to attend a field exercise. The program is 12 hours of training between the classroom and field portion.

Goals of this program:

Understand basic trip planning - understand safe travel techniques - be able to distinguish between safe and potentially hazardous terrain - understand the basics of snow stability analysis - be able to perform basic risk analysis and employ risk mitigation measures - know how to perform individual and small group self-rescue.

WWW.SNOWIASA.ORG



Most avalanche accidents can be avoided with simple education and preparation. Visit the above web address to learn more about avalanches, how to make informed decisions, and how to travel more safely when snowmobiling in avalanche terrain.

Cover photo courtesy of Idaho State Snowmobile Association.

## Southeast Idaho Avalanche Awareness & Companion Rescue Clinic Schedule



2015 - 2016



www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov