

# **AIARE Level One Avalanche Education Course: Decision-Making in Avalanche Terrain**

## **Course Information**

Please contact us weekdays 8am-5pm at (719) 630-3934 or anytime at [info@pikespeakalpineschool.com](mailto:info@pikespeakalpineschool.com) with any questions regarding the AIARE Level One course or other skiing-related topics.

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This is a 24-hour course that is an introduction to avalanche hazard management. It is designed to provide you with: a basic understanding of avalanches; a framework for decision-making and risk management in avalanche terrain; and exercises with learning outcomes for practical application while traveling in the mountains after the course concludes. We focus on asking the right questions, rather than providing all the answers.

Students can expect to develop a good grounding in how to prepare for and carry out a trip; to create a basic framework for decision-making while in the field; and to learn rescue techniques required to find and dig up a buried companions. Application of skills is heavily emphasized.

### ***Prerequisites:***

1. Ability to travel through avalanche terrain on suitable equipment (choice of one of the following: alpine touring or telemark skis; split board; or snowshoes)
2. Desire to learn about avalanches and safe travel techniques in avalanche terrain

### **Day One Evening session 5:00-8:00pm, Room 213 Worner Center, Colorado College**

- Introduction to the Avalanche Phenomena Part I
- Introduction to avalanche terrain
- Types and characteristics of avalanches

### **Day Two Evening session 5:00-8:00pm, Room 213 Worner Center, Colorado College**

- The Avalanche Phenomena Part II
- Avalanches in motion
- An introduction to snow metamorphism and layering

### **Day Three Field session 7:30am-5:00pm, Pikes Peak**

#### ***Please come prepared for a full day in the snow, outside on Pikes Peak***

- Companion rescue and equipment
- Decision-making and human factors
- Avalanche terrain recognition, assessment, and selection
- Field observations and information gathering
- Trip planning and preparation

### **Day Four Field session 7:30am-5:00pm, Pikes Peak**

#### ***Please come prepared for a full day in the snow, outside on Pikes Peak***

- Bonding tests (rutschblock, compression test, etc.)
- Avalanche danger scale, danger factors, and “red flags”
- Route finding and travel techniques
- Observation checklist

*Please see attached gear list for this course.*