

**Sierra Avalanche Center
Avalanche Rescue for Motorized Users
Course Syllabus**

Course Summary

This course provides avalanche rescue practice for motorized users. Learning will occur through pre-course reading and videos, and one 8hr day of field practice. Because avalanche avoidance skills should be prioritized over avalanche rescue skills, it is strongly recommended - but not required - that only graduates of a Level 1 register for this class (the Level 1 can be motorized or non-motorized). This class follows the guidelines for Avalanche Rescue as established by the American Avalanche Association.

Schedule

The class will run from 9am-5pm, entirely in the field. Instructors will communicate specific plans prior to and throughout the class. Attendance and participation in the full class is mandatory.

Course Requirements:

Participants must:

- Be able to ride off-trail in variable conditions. Riding ability is less important on Rescue classes than on Level 1 and Level 2 classes, but participants still need to be able to ride off-trail in variable conditions.
- Bring a functioning beacon, shovel, and probe. Beacons should be [modern three-antennae](#), shovels should be made specifically for avalanche rescue, and probes should be 270cm or longer. Avalanche gear must be worn/carried on self, and not in tunnel bag. An extra shovel in tunnel bag is recommended.
- Wear a DOT or similarly approved helmet and weather-appropriate gear.
- Ride a reliable, well-maintained snowmobile/snowbike, capable of off-trail travel. Machines must be registered with visible registration markings. Spare belts and repair kits are strongly recommended. Poorly maintained machines and/or machines not intended for off-trail travel may jeopardize the experience of others.
- Read the required materials and apply the Daily Flow and Alerts stickers to machines for easy reference while riding.
- Bring a radio capable of operating on [FRS/GMRS frequencies](#).

Required Materials:

- The [SAC Daily Flow user guide](#) and videos, with an emphasis on the [rescue chapter](#).
- Daily Flow and Alerts stickers, available for free at most regional powersports dealers. Additional stickers will be provided in class.
- [AIARE's rescue video](#)

Learning Outcomes

The successful student will:

- Become familiar with the structure and oversight of avalanche education in the U.S.
- Be aware of avalanche risk management tools, including ways to identify avalanche terrain
- Recognize that companion rescue skills are necessary for travel in avalanche terrain
- Acknowledge that avoidance is more important than rescue
- Follow basic travel protocols, including trailhead checks for rescue and emergency gear
- Demonstrate familiarity with rescue gear
- Improve skills by completing simple companion rescue scenarios
- Practice complex multiple-burial techniques
- Describe medical and traumatic problems associated with avalanche accidents
- Plan for a self-evacuation and/or transition to an evacuation led by a SAR team
- Assist with an organized rescue led by a SAR team
- Facilitate continued companion rescue practice with riding partners