

Sierra Avalanche Center
Avalanche Level 2 for Motorized Users
2022 Course Syllabus

Course Summary

This course presents advanced concepts of recreational avalanche risk management for motorized users. Learning will occur through a mix of pre-course reading and work, classroom sessions, and field practice. This course follows the guidelines for Recreational Level 2 Avalanche Training as established by the American Avalanche Association.

Schedule

All three days will run from 9am-5pm. The first day will begin with a classroom session before transitioning to the field. The following two days will be 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 an advanced rider, comfortable side-hilling to both sides while making adjustments around obstacles, and able to self-extricate from basic stucks. Riding ability is much more important on the Level 2 compared to Level 1 and Rescue classes - please do not overestimate your riding ability.
- 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 Text and Materials:

- [The SAC Daily Flow](#) video and user guide pages. A paper copy of *The SAC Daily Flow* book will be provided in class.
- Other pre-course online assignments that will be communicated upon registration.
- Daily Flow and Alerts stickers, available for free at most regional powersports dealers. Additional stickers will be provided in class.

Learning Outcomes

The successful student will be able to:

- Manage risk for peers in an informal setting.
- Consider the impact that advanced avalanche training has on group dynamics.
- Use relationships between weather, snowpack, and avalanches to anticipate hazards.
- Facilitate discussions with riding partners to create safety margins using terrain and/or timing.
- Confirm details with riding partners and develop a simple plan as a group contract.

(Learning Outcomes continued)

- Manage the riding group by using guiding techniques to lead through non-avalanche and avalanche terrain.
- Use the SAC Conditions and Terrain Alerts stickers to maintain awareness and communicate changes and/or concerns to the riding group.
- Use industry standard techniques to make observations by digging below the snow surface, and to communicate weather, snowpack, and avalanche conditions to others.
- Lead group discussions that link observed conditions to terrain use.
- Encourage partners to learn from each day by using daily debriefs.
- Submit observations to SAC using technical language and/or images and videos.