






# North American Public Avalanche Danger Scale








Avalanche danger is determined by the likelihood, size and distribution of avalanches.

Danger Level		Travel Advice	Likelihood of Avalanches	Avalanche Size and Distribution
<b>5 Extreme</b>		Avoid all avalanche terrain.	Natural and human-triggered avalanches certain.	Large to very large avalanches in many areas.
<b>4 High</b>		Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain <u>not</u> recommended.	Natural avalanches likely; human-triggered avalanches very likely.	Large avalanches in many areas; or very large avalanches in specific areas.
<b>3 Considerable</b>		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.
<b>2 Moderate</b>		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.
<b>1 Low</b>		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.

Safe backcountry travel requires training and experience. You control your own risk by choosing where, when and how you travel.

# North American

## Public Avalanche Danger Scale

Danger Level		Current Conditions	Know Before You Go
5 Extreme		<p><b>Canadian Avalanche Bulletins</b> <a href="http://www.avalanche.ca">www.avalanche.ca</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Does your group have the skills, knowledge and training to travel in avalanche terrain?</li></ul>
4 High		<p><b>American Avalanche Advisories</b> <a href="http://www.avalanche.org">www.avalanche.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Are you carrying transceivers, shovels and probes?</li></ul>
3 Considerable			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Can you self-rescue? Do you have a plan?</li></ul>
2 Moderate			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Do you know the emergency number?</li><li>✓ Have you checked the current avalanche bulletin and weather forecast?</li></ul>
1 Low			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Have you checked out with someone?</li><li>✓ Do you have any other route options?</li></ul>

You control your own risk.