

Avalanche Gear: Orientation, Deployment & Practice for beginners

About Transceivers

Analog (sound signal beep) or Digital Current standards transmit at 457 khz can wander out of tune check tune!
Digital have Single or Multiple antennas, may pick up signal @ 80 m usually about 40 m. along **FLUX LINES**
Multiple antenna enabled beacons indicate distance and direction & can identify multiple victims in coarse search
Can be set to Off - Send- Search. **Be aware, learn & practice modes on your (and party members) transceiver**
Interference can affect search more than transmit mode keep following objects at least 12" away from beacon
Headlamps, metal objects (probes, ice axe) magnetic devices Turn cell phones etc off (still transmit even when off)
Good quality AAA or AA batteries (fresh) carry spare batteries (about 40 service hours)
Securely affixed under outer layer of clothing Transmitter as near your head as possible

About probes

multi-section various lengths, diameters, held by high tension cable
Consider, length, weight, speed of assembly, durability
Use the wrist Loop Learn & practice assembly of your probe

About shovels

No plastic Shovel Even light metal alloy shovels should be hardened 6061 T
Collapsible handle need sufficient overlap, D- shaped grip superior to T
Learn & practice assembly of your shovel

Start of the Trip/Trailhead

Everyone has Beacon, Probe, Shovel ? 2 Easily accessible on pack? 3 Beacon Check?

In the field

Entering Avalanche Terrain

1 Prepare

de-secure, clothing, packs, poles, skis for quick release in event of avalanche

2 Precaution

travel in widely spaced configuration, spotting each member carefully along traverse

AVALANCHE (about 90% survival if found within 10 minutes)

3 Plan

Safe location, Rescue Plan (30 secs) Get help? Companion rescue? Participant roles? Signs?

4 Proceed

Switch to receive mode Search downhill from where victim (signs) last seen (pick pattern)

>1 minute

Signal Search

Objective

Pick up signal (if single antenna rotate wrist 360 degrees) **Yell ``Got signal``**

Coarse Search

Objective

Get within 2-3 meters of victim follow direction indicator (along flux lines)
Move quickly to within 2 meters **Yell ``Fine Search``**

Fine Search

Objective

Pinpoint Victim by bracketing (lead searcher only) transceiver close to snow
-move transceiver slowly left & right and forward & back above victim area
-others prep, assemble probes & shovels

1-4 minutes

Probing

Pinpoint Search identify depth & orientation of victim

2 hands on probe 90 degrees to slope First probe where strongest signal
From there with 10" radius in circular (or spiral) motion every 10 inches
Leave probe(s) in place

>1 minute

Shovelling

Takes about 10 min to move 1 cubic meter of snow -survival below 2 meters rare (> 4%)

Begin digging about 1.5 times burial depth down slope from estimated victim beacon

V- shaped team placement 2 shovel lengths apart

pad snow along not lift shovels of snow Rotate jobs (clockwise every 2-3 min)

Victim seen, intensify victim uncovering (head mouth first), adapt V to victim position

Shape platform downhill of victim for easy removal from snow treatment & evacuation

6 minutes