

The European avalanche danger scale is intended for skiers and winter walkers in uncontrolled mountain areas and for local experts.

www.celle.it

**EUROPEAN AVALANCHE DANGER SCALE**

DEGREE OF HAZARD	AVALANCHE PROBABILITY	IMPLICATIONS FOR SKIERS AND WINTER WALKERS
<b>1 LOW</b>	Triggering is possible only with high additional loads on a few extremely steep slopes. Only a few small natural avalanches might occur.	Generally safe conditions for skiing.
<b>2 MODERATE</b>	Triggering is possible with high additional loads, particularly on the steep slopes indicated. Large natural avalanches are unlikely.	Favourable conditions for skiing, but due consideration should be given to locally dangerous areas.
<b>3 CONSIDERABLE</b>	Triggering is possible, sometimes even with low additional loads, particularly on the steep slopes indicated. In certain conditions, medium and occasionally large natural avalanches may occur.	Limited possibilities for skiing. Experience in the assessment of local conditions is required.
<b>4 HIGH</b>	Triggering is probable even with low additional loads on many steep slopes. In some conditions, frequent medium or large natural avalanches are likely.	Very limited possibilities for skiing. Experience in the assessment of local conditions is required.
<b>5 VERY HIGH</b>	Numerous large natural avalanches are likely, even on moderately steep terrain.	Skiing is not generally possible.

[www.montagnamicaesicura.it](http://www.montagnamicaesicura.it)  
[www.caiveneto.it](http://www.caiveneto.it) [vfg.cnsasa.it](http://vfg.cnsasa.it)

Project made possible by:



 **project MontagnAmica**



**MontagnAmica** is an ambitious project organised by CAI, the Italian Alpine Club, together with all the associations involved in training and/or the prevention of mountain accidents.

**Ninety five per cent of avalanche accidents are caused by the victims themselves.**

To learn more about snow and mountain safety, **KEEP THIS LEAFLET**. It contains all the key information you need for safe outings.



**Want to go on or off-piste skiing?**



**1**



**Note:** If you want to **go off-piste skiing** the day before your trip, **ask for the snow and weather bulletin** and if you are not sure how to interpret it, ask an expert.

**2**



**Ask ski lift personnel for information about on and off-piste conditions.**

**3**



**Obey signs for warnings and bans** encountered during the descent. Do not go beyond piste boundaries as the terrain may be steep and dangerous.

**4**



**Use a helmet even when not compulsory.**

**5**



**Protect your eyes** with UV protection goggles or mask. Wind, snow, cold, sun and glare from the snow may be very distressing and even cause temporary blindness.

**6**

**Find out about the difficulties** of runs according to colour codes.



**7**



**Take a map of the ski district with you.** You can ask for one when you buy your ski pass.

**8**



If you cause an accident on the piste and do not stop, **you can be prosecuted for failure to offer assistance.**

**9**



If you prefer **off-piste skiing** and it is allowed by local regulations, **you should also read the ten "notes" for ski touring enthusiasts.**

**10**



If you use a **snowboard**, find out from ski lift personnel if there are **special areas/runs for this sport.**





## Want to go snowshoeing?

1



**Note:**  
Read the snow and weather bulletins at least 3/4 days before your trip and **choose the safest route**. If you are not sure how to interpret them, ask an expert. If the bulletin gives a **grade 2 or 3 avalanche risk, take great care; if it's grade 4 or 5, cancel your trip.**

2

**Prepare your trip beforehand**, assess the technical difficulties and ask the local mountain guides office for advice.



3



If you set out alone, **always let someone know your route.**

4



**Choose your companions carefully**, assess their experience and fitness.

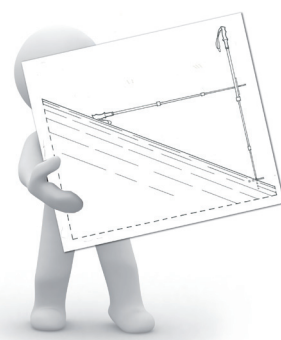
5

Prepare your rucksack appropriately, **always wear an avalanche transceiver (beacon or ARVA) switched on in the transmitting position, and take a shovel and probe.**



6

**Learn to evaluate a slope** using your ski poles: a slope at over 25° (half the length of the pole) means there is a risk of avalanche.



7



Always **take a topographical map** of the area and **a compass with you.**

8

**Always set out very early** and remember that:

- your behaviour,
- fresh snow,
- wind,
- the angle of a slope,
- rapid heating,

**can all, trigger, an avalanche.**



9



**If an avalanche accident occurs:**

- you have 18 minutes to rescue the victim;
- you must call 118
- at the same time, begin the emergency rescue procedure which you must know by heart.

10

Remember that **triggering an avalanche can lead to charges for a criminal offence**. And that means a prison sentence.



## Want to go ski touring?

1



**Note:**  
**Suitable training is essential** for this sport: find out more from local mountain guides or CAI ski touring schools.

2

**Start reading the snow and weather bulletins** at least 3/4 days before your trip and **choose the safest route**. If you are not sure how to interpret them, ask an expert for help. If the bulletin indicates a grade 2 or 3 avalanche risk, **take special care; if the risk is grade 4 or 5, cancel your trip.**



3



**Organise your trip** beforehand, **assess the technical difficulties and ask the local mountain guides office** for advice.

4

Although **it is never advisable, if you ski on your own, let someone know where you are going.**



5



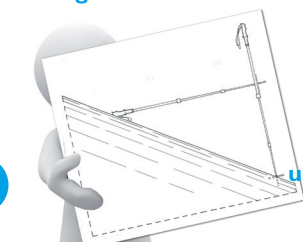
**Choose your companions carefully**, assess their experience and fitness.

6

Prepare your rucksack appropriately, **always take a shovel, probe, compass, map and altimeter**. From the moment you put your skis on, **wear an avalanche transceiver** in the transmitting position. **It is advisable to wear a helmet when skiing downhill.**



7



**Assess the angle of the slope using your poles**, at more than 25° (half the length of the pole) there is an avalanche risk.

8

**Always set out very early** and remember that:

- your behaviour,
- fresh snow,
- wind,
- the angle of a slope,
- rapid heating,

**can all trigger an avalanche.**



9



**If an avalanche accident occurs:**

- you have 18 minutes to rescue the victim;
- you must call 118
- at the same time, begin the emergency rescue procedure which you must know by heart.

10

**The rescuer must:**

- mark the place where the victim disappeared;
- turn the transceiver to the receive position, assemble the shovel and probe and start searching;
- locate the avalanche victim and mark the point with the probe;
- start digging about a metre downhill from the probe to the side;
- once the body has been reached, use your hands to free the head and chest first and make sure the respiratory cavities are not blocked;
- protect the victim's body from the cold.

