

Quick Reference: Avalanche Rescue — DO NOT GO FOR OUTSIDE HELP —

1) **TAKE CHARGE** or assign a leader

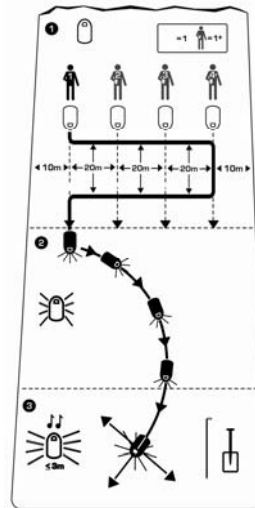
2) **ASSESS SAFETY** of the party:

- Risk of further avalanche
- Route to safety
- Post avalanche watch (if necessary)
- Limit people exposed during rescue

3) **HEAD COUNT** How many missing?
Check group list!

4) Avalanche **TRANSCIVERS TO "SEARCH MODE"** (PHYSICAL CHECK)

5) **IDENTIFY** (mark) **LAST POINT SEEN**



6) Determine **WHERE TO SEARCH**:

- Fall line below "last point seen"
- Areas of deposition, in terrain traps
- In line with clues

7) **BEGIN SYSTEMATIC SEARCH:**
(For visual clues and transceiver signal)

- Spread searchers out in an effective pattern to cover slope
- LOOK/LISTEN to transceiver info and for clues
- Search strips max. 20m apart
- Search edges of avalanche debris

Text courtesy of The American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education

Graphic courtesy of Backcountry Access

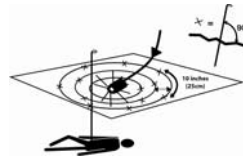
8) YELL TO OTHERS WHEN YOU HAVE A SIGNAL or find a clue:
(pull clue out of snow and leave in place)

9) ASSEMBLE PROBE/SHOVEL:

- (If required) two searchers work together on first burial while others continue to search in the case of multiple burials

10) FOLLOW TRANSCIVER SIGNAL TO BURIAL:

- SLOW DOWN!
- Transceiver near snow surface on final approach
- BE PRECISE!



11) TARGET BURIAL SITE:

- MARK (with gloves or ski poles) the last 3m line of approach to burial
- 2nd SEARCHER PROBE on the line ahead of the searcher approaching burial
- BRACKET and mark each side of the line at "strongest signal point"



12) LOCATE VICTIM WITH PROBE:

- Carefully
- Use circular pattern from "strongest signal point" outwards
- Probe Strike = Burial Location. DO NOT REMOVE PROBE!

13) SHOVEL AS FAST AND HARD AS POSSIBLE:

- Consider burial depth and size of hole
- Start downhill and away from probe
- Dig toward probe; throw now far away
- CHANGE SHOVELERS OFTEN
- Careful as you reach burial

— STAY CALM —
— KEEP LOOKING —

*Text courtesy of The American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education
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