



## Friends of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center

### Basic Avalanche Awareness Field Session Outline

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#### **Terrain**

- Avalanche terrain identification
- Slope angles, shapes
- Run-out zones, alpha angles
- Flag trees
- Safe travel techniques, route finding
- Safe zones

#### **Weather**

- Discuss current future weather trends and their effects on snowpack... cold, clear, calm, warm sunny
- Precipitation
- Wind. Events and the results of direction and speed

#### **Snowpack**

- Dig a long pit
- Show and discuss hand hardness or credit card test in pit wall.
- Point out and discuss layers from a stability test/concern/decision making perspective
- Discuss how these layers may have formed
- General discussion of temperature gradients
- Stability Tests. Logical progression from Shovel Shear, CT, ECT, Rutschblock.
- Shear quality relevance
- Discuss test results and decision making

#### **Rescue**

- Overview of beacon use
- Discuss probing/shoveling techniques
- Hide and seek