



BRASS/SVSEF Avalanche Awareness Survey Results 2019

General Survey Results

Total Responses:1,204

- Region: East (28%), Rocky (21%), Central (9%), West/Far West (41%), USST (2%)
- Demographic: Athlete (45%), Coach (29%), Official (10%), Parent (13%), Administrator (2%)
- Age: <13 (3%), 13-15 (9%), 16-19 (14%), 20-25 (7%), 26-35 (8%), 36-45 (10%), 45+ (38%)
- Discipline: Alpine (80%), Nordic (8%), Snowboard Big Mountain/Freeride (2%), Snowboard Race (1%), Freeski/Big Mountain (5%), Freestyle (4%)

Avalanche Training

- No Avalanche Training (49%), Avalanche Awareness (34%), Avalanche Level 1 (13%), Avalanche Level 2 (3%), Pro Level Avalanche Course (2%)

Places respondents will be traveling to for training or competition in the next 12 months

- North American West (85%), Europe/Asia (24%), New Zealand/Australia (11%), South America (10%), None of the Above (11%),

Understanding the difference between on-piste and off-piste skiing as it applies to Europe

- Absolutely (37%), Kind of (34%), Not Really (29%)

What avalanche rescue gear do you own?

- Shovel (51%), Beacon (46%), Probe (43%), Airbag Pack (10%), No Avalanche Rescue gear (45%)

If you own a beacon, how often do you practice with it?

- Never (37%), 2-5 times/yr (23%), Once a year (22%), 5-10 times/yr (10%), > 10 times/yr (7%)

How often do you wear an avalanche beacon in-bounds at Ski Area?

- Never (69%), Rarely (18%), Sometimes (7%), Usually (3%), Always (3%)

When do you ski/ride with avalanche rescue gear in-bounds? (Top 3 responses)

- When I think I may ski/ride out of bounds (42%), High Avalanche Danger (30%), Considerable Avalanche Danger (23%)

How often do you check the avalanche forecast before you ski/ride in-bounds?

- Never (41%), Rarely (20%), Sometimes (50%), Usually (12%), Always (11%)

Sidecountry Description: Uncontrolled and unpatrolled terrain adjacent to or near ski area. Typically accessed by riding lifts and then leaving the ski area boundary.

- Yes I ski/ride in the sidecountry (53%), No I don't go in the sidecountry (47%)

Who do you ski/ride with in the sidecountry? (Top 3 responses)

- Peers (75%), Adults/Friends Parents (55%), Coaches (29%)

Respondents who go in the sidecountry

- Always carry beacon, shovel, probe (30%), Always check the avalanche forecast (41%)

Backcountry Description: Terrain is typically accessed from a roadway or trailhead, using skis + skins, snowmobiles, snowshoes, or “booting” to reach to top of what you will ski/ride.

- Yes I ski/ride in the backcountry (49%), No I don't go in the backcountry (51%)

Who do you ski/ride with in the backcountry? (Top 3 responses)

- Peers (75%), Adults/Friends (54%), Guides (26%)

Respondents who go in the backcountry

- Always carry beacon, shovel, probe (64%), Always check the avalanche forecast (60%)

Athlete Responses Key Points

- No Avalanche Training (57%)
- Athletes traveling to North American West (86%)
- Athletes who responded they ski/ride in the sidecountry (31%)
 - Athletes as young as 13-15 are skiing/riding in the sidecountry with peers
 - Always carry beacon, shovel, probe in the sidecountry (21%)
 - Responded they go in the sidecountry with their peers (84%)
 - Responded they go in the sidecountry with their coaches (33%)
- Athletes who responded they ski/ride in the backcountry (29%)
 - Always carry, beacon, shovel, probe in the backcountry (55%)
 - Responded they go in the backcountry with their peers (81%)

Alpine Athletes Responses Key Points

- No Avalanche Training (56%)
 - Central (95%), East (81%), USST (50%), Rocky (41%), West/Far West (35%)

Coaches Responses Key Points

- No Avalanche Training (39%)
- Coaches traveling to North American West (88%), Europe (21%)
- Coaches who absolutely understand the difference between on-piste and off-piste as it applies to Europe (46%), Kind of (32%), Not really (22%)

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