

# CMC Volunteer Leadership Avalanche Education Policy

## **Avalanche Education Requirements for CMC Leadership:**

Avalanche education is a necessary part of managing risk in outdoor recreation in Colorado. CMC recommends avalanche education for all CMC leadership regardless of sport or season.

Any trip leader or instructor traveling on snow covered terrain at any time of year is required to have the following avalanche education based on the terrain.

**Avalanche Terrain Avoidance (ATA)** is recommended for all CMC leadership (regardless of sport or season) and required for leaders and instructors who travel in snow-covered areas but do not travel in avalanche prone terrain.

*(Non-avalanche prone terrain – includes terrain with stable snowpack; slope angles not in the 25-45 degree range; that does not include terrain traps (e.g., stream beds, gullies, or steep road cuts) or snow pillows, roll-overs, cornices and subtle micro-terrain features; and that does not have avalanche prone terrain above the selected route.)*

**AIARE Level 1** (or equivalent) is required for all CMC leadership who travel in avalanche prone terrain.

*(Avalanche prone terrain – includes terrain with unstable snowpack; slope angles of 25- 45 degrees; or which may have terrain traps, snow pillows, roll-overs, cornices, and subtle micro-terrain features; and routes below avalanche prone terrain.)*

**Staying Current:** Leaders are required to keep up-to-date with valid recurrent training.

**WFA** – certification of the 16 hour class every 2 years (*This is an international standard. CMC no longer allows for any form of “refresher” in place of a current WFA certification.*)

**ATA** – Re-take ATA class every 5 years  
(*to be made readily available to leaders with field days across the state*)

**AIARE Level 1** - AIARE Companion Rescue or equivalent every 5 years

CMC Groups will communicate any relevant updates to policies and procedures to Trip Leaders annually.

**Roll Out of policy:** We know that getting all instructors and leaders valid and up to date training will take some time and planning. Please communicate your group's particular needs so we can work together to be sure these requirements are affordable and attainable.

- There will be a grace period for folks to get up to date and up to speed.
- Adherence to the policy is expected by fall 2023 requiring that leaders/instructors on snow covered terrain either have ATA when leading or instructing CMC activities in non-avalanche prone terrain or AIARE Level 1 when leading or instructing CMC activities in avalanche prone terrain.

# Avalanche Safety

## Which training do you need?

AIARE photo showing slope angles, with most avalanches occurring between 30 and 45 degrees.

Avalanche Terrain Avoidance (ATA)	AIARE 1
Required for winter trip leaders & instructors traveling in non-avalanche prone terrain	Required for winter trip leaders & instructors traveling in avalanche terrain
Know where to find info on avalanche conditions	Learn the Risk Management Framework to plan your trip
Recognize avalanche terrain	Recognize avalanche terrain
Learn how to route plan to avoid avalanche terrain	Practice rescue techniques using beacon, shovel, probe
Must renew ATA every 5 years	Must renew AIARE Companion Rescue every 5 years