

AIARE Level 1 Avalanche Safety Course: Decision Making in Avalanche Terrain

January 6th-8th, 2012

High Mountain Institute Leadville, CO

Instructors: John MacKinnon, Chris Wright

Class will begin at 8 am daily. Students should be prepared to be out in the field in a variety of weather conditions. Please bring plenty of food, hot drinks and layers to each field session. We will be inside until lunch on Day 1 so dress accordingly.

Syllabus:

Day 1

Introductions

Goals

Case Study—Ohio Pass, Crested Butte Backcountry

Avalanche Types and Characteristics

Creation of Mountain Snowpack

Avalanche Terrain

Break for Lunch

Intro to Companion Rescue

Companion Rescue Field Session

Intro to the Avalanche Bulletin

Day 2

Teamwork, Communication and The Human Factor

Intro to Field Observations

Trip Planning

Observation and Clue Gathering Field Session—*Lunch in Field*

Preparing for a Decision

Decision Making

Case Study—Hatcher Pass, AK

Day 3

Review Avalanche Bulletin

Trip Planning

Terrain Tour—*Lunch in Field*

Debrief

Clean Up Campus