



Avalanche Warnings, Watches and Special Bulletins

Avalanche Warnings are issued when High avalanche danger is expected within 24 hours of the forecast issuance for many areas. Many areas can mean very large geographic areas. Many areas can also mean several aspects and/or elevations in a specific geographic area. Avalanche Warnings are not issued when the danger is HIGH in specific or isolated areas. Avalanche Warnings can be issued when non-recreationalists or people who would not otherwise access the avalanche forecast are expected to be adversely impacted.

During very dangerous avalanche conditions, travel in avalanche terrain is not recommended.

NWAC will always issue an avalanche warning when the danger is at least High or Extreme in all 3 elevation bands; below treeline, near treeline and above treeline.

Avalanche Watches can be issued when there is high confidence that warning conditions will develop within 24-48 hours of the forecast issuance. An Avalanche Watch will likely be upgraded to a warning closer to the anticipated event.

Special Avalanche Bulletins are impact-based products. These are issued when significant public use is expected and dangerous avalanche conditions exist, but the avalanche conditions do not meet the level necessary to issue an Avalanche Warning.

NWAC partners with the NWS to help disseminate Avalanche Warnings, Watches and Special Bulletins products to the general public.

Read more about the [North American Public Avalanche Danger Scale](#).

Always check the forecast for the latest details: <http://www.nwac.us/>