



Avalanche Companion Rescue

You will be Joe's ski partner. To be a good partner, you should practice avalanche companion rescue before the trip. If possible, run through three full rescues with a partner. An ideal scenario is to place a sending beacon in a pack and bury it 120cm deep. If you are new to avalanche companion rescue, spend several hours practicing with your rescue gear and studying the manuals and the links below. Avalanche accidents are unlikely, but they are possible. Avoidance is the best strategy. Then practice for a worst-case scenario, which is a full burial.

BCA: <https://backcountryaccess.com/bca-avalanche-rescue/>

Beacon Reviews: <http://www.beaconreviews.com/>

1) Watch and Yell

- Note point last seen

2) Be Calm

- Slow is smooth. Smooth is fast.

3) Turn Beacons to Search

4) Go to Point Last Seen

- Search downhill from PLS

5) Signal Search

- Run
- Zig-zag downhill
- Scan for clues
- Use a 40m (130ft) search width

6) Coarse Search

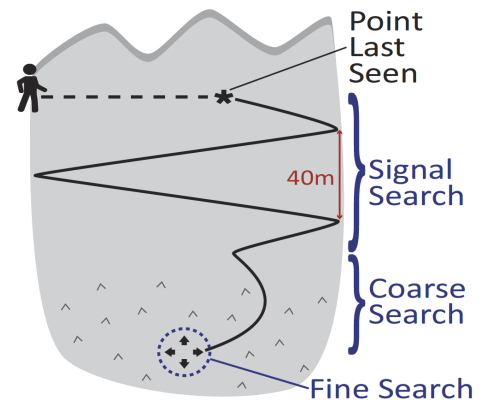
- Walk
- Follow direction indicator

7) Fine Search

- Crawl (remove skis)
- Start when beacon reads 5
- Beacon at knee height
- Fixed orientation (do not rotate)
- Note location of lowest number

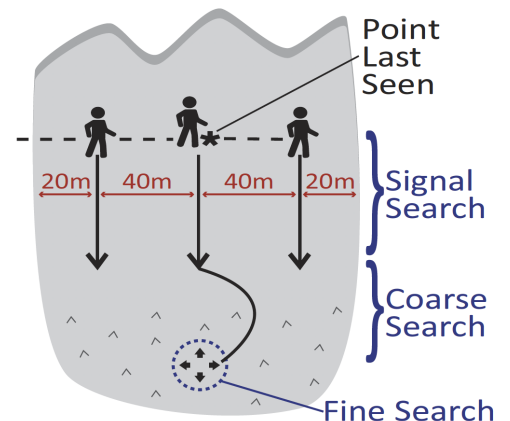
Single searcher:

Zig-zag downhill



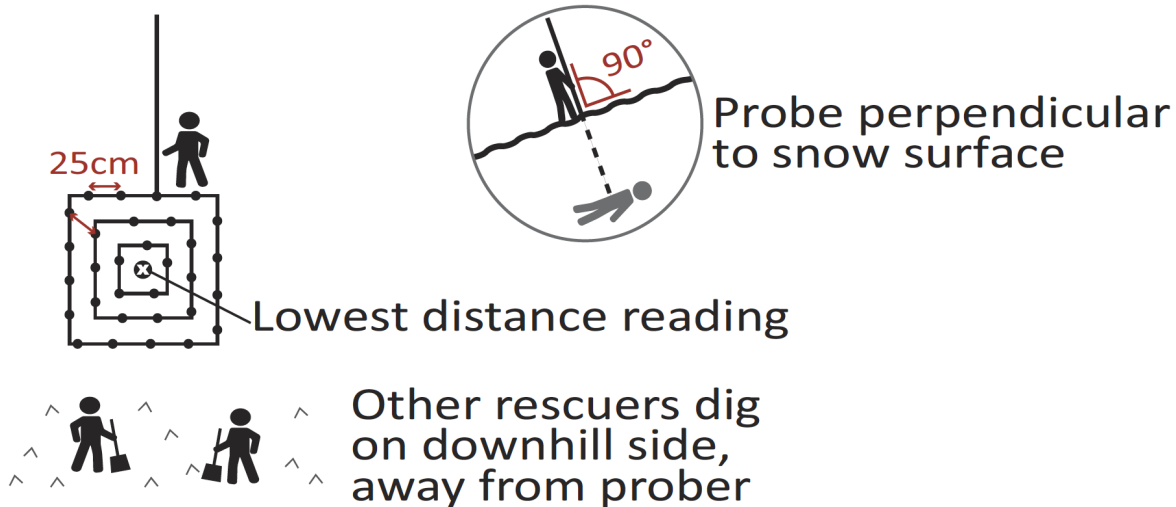
Multiple searchers:

Zig-zag or straight downhill





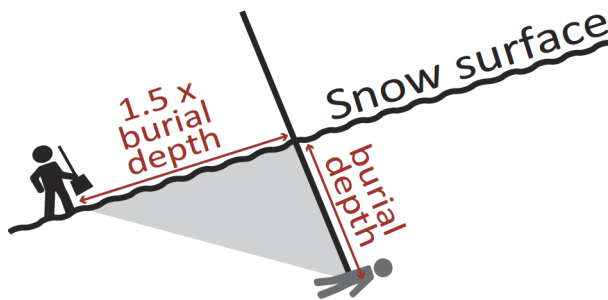
8) Probe: Spiral probe out from the location of the lowest number found in your fine search. Probe until strike or four complete spirals.



9) Dig: Start on the downhill side, from a distance of 1.5 times the burial depth. Dig a ramp, an armspan wide, down to the tip of the probe. Do not burrow. Digging is the most difficult part of the rescue.

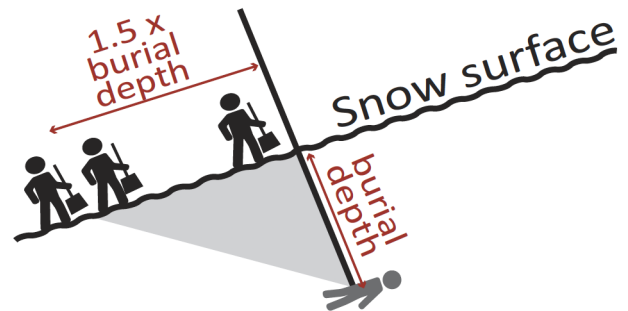
Single digger:

Start at 1.5 x the burial depth on the downhill side



Multiple diggers:

First digger near probe, others start at 1.5 x burial depth



10) First Aid: Clear snow from mouth. Give rescue breaths. Keep warm. Treat gently. Plan evacuation.