

**BACKCOUNTRY SAFETY: 5 RED FLAGS** 

Play It Safe In The Mountains



### 1. New Snow

90% of human triggered avalanches happen within 24 hours after a storm. Give storm snow the utmost respect and assume high to extreme danger within 24 hours after a storm. Follow this rule and you will eliminate your risk of getting caught in an avalanche by 90%.



# 2. Signs Of Recent Avalanches

If you see signs of natural avalanches (crown lines, avy debris) this is a sign that avy danger should be taken very seriously. Take extra precaution if the natural avalanches have occurred at a similar elevation and on the same aspect as the slope you want to ride.



**EMERGENCY CONTACT:** 

If you feel the slope collapse under your feet or hear whomping sounds this is a sign of unstable layers in the snowpack. Cracks may also shoot out from your skis or board as you skin or ride in fresh snow. These are all signs of dangerous snow layers.



# 4. Rapid Rises In Temperature

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No matter the starting temperature, any rapid warm up is dangerous because the snowpack does not have time to adjust to the temperature change. Take extra precaution on the first warm day



# 5. Strong Winds Drifting Snow

467.6375 MHz

If the wind is strong enough to transport snow then the avalanche conditions can change from stable to dangerous without any new snow. Watch for blowing snow on high ridges and beware of wind loaded pockets at the top of faces and chutes.

**Channel 11**