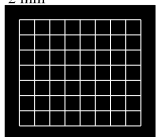


Inclinometer & Avalanche Safety Card © 2007 John E. Sohl

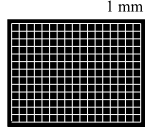
X

2 mm



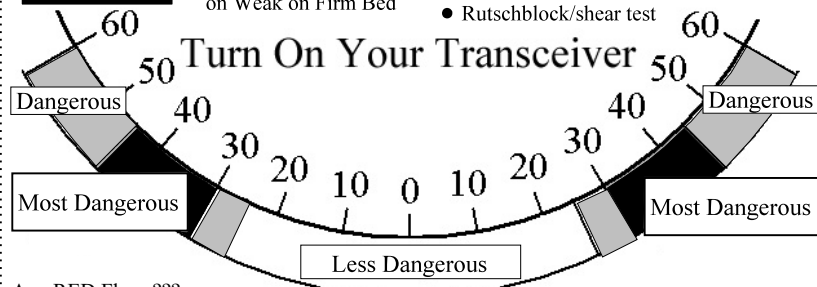
SNOW PIT ANALYSIS

1 mm



- Slope Angle & Aspect
- Credit card/hand test.
- Dig pit to ground
- Test hardness of layers
- Look for layers: Slab on Weak on Firm Bed
- View crystal types
- Rutschblock/shear test

Turn On Your Transceiver



Any RED Flags ???

<p>LOOKING FOR SAFETY:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence of PAST AVALANCHES? 2. Will the TERRAIN allow an avalanche? Slope angle & aspect Slope shape (convex/concave) Surface/anchoring 3. How STABLE is the snow, where'll it go? Slab size, terrain traps, runout zone Bonding: weak layers, crystals Shear tests Stress: cracks, whumphing 4. Is WEATHER affecting the snow pack? Rain, 1 ft of new snow, intensity (1 in/hr) 5. Is the HUMAN affecting your decision? Attitude/Ego/Rush for Adrenalin Is your skill higher than your knowledge? 6. Do you have the proper equipment? 7. Is there a SAFER alternative? 	<p>WINTER TRAVEL & ROUTE FINDING:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use transceiver, carry shovel & probe poles. 2. Stay high on ridges, keep to windward side. 3. Avoid steep open slopes and/or terrain traps. 4. Use islands of safety: trees, rocks, ridges. 5. Go straight up/down, don't zig-zag slopes. 6. Cross slopes one at a time, look for escapes. 7. Watch each person closely as they cross. 8. Loosen straps on pack, skis, poles. 9. Tighten clothing & move quickly. 10. Don't assume it's safe because one person made it across. <p style="text-align: center;">RESCUE - Remember - Act Fast!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect yourself first. 2. Assign a spotter. 3. Mark point last seen. 4. Establish trajectory. 5. Fast search of debris. 6. Transceiver search. 7. Coarse probe. 8. <i>Remember, if your buddies don't get you you're dead.</i>
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1. Cut this out and fold it in half. (I like to color highlight parts of the scale, Most Dangerous - red, Dangerous - yellow)
2. Laminate it in plastic. Make sure it is STIFF plastic, or at least not really flimsy anyway. Usually you can laminate 5 or 6 for the price of 1. Kinkos has some stiff laminate.
3. Poke a hole at the X. I use a small sharp drill bit. Make sure the hole is clean with no burrs.
4. Thread a heavy thread or light string through the hole. I like brightly colored nylon string.
5. Knot the thread on the back (text) side to keep it from pulling through the hole.
6. Put a small weight on the end of the thread, a crimp-on lead fishing weight works well.

Viola! You have an inclinometer and avalanche safety card to carry with you in the back country.

Note Well: This card is meant as a reminder/course notes for any good avalanche awareness class. If you do not have the avalanche knowledge to understand the *very terse* notes on the card, then **do not use it!** Take a class first.

Note: While I have placed a "copyright" on this card. The original idea was not mine. (I don't know who started the basic card.) I *have* modified the card substantially. Anyway, feel free to distribute it far and wide to improve backcountry safety.

(Revised: 11/14/07)