

[GNFAC Avalanche Forecast for Sat Oct 7, 2017](#)

Good Morning. This is Doug Chabot with pre-season avalanche, weather, and event information for the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center issued on Saturday, October 7. This bulletin is sponsored by [The Friends of the Avalanche Center](#) and sponsors of [Powder Blast on October 27, 2017](#).

Mountain Weather

Last night the Bridger Range picked up 6" of new snow. Other ranges got 1-2", with the exception being West Yellowstone, which got missed. This morning mountain temperatures are in the teens and ridgetop winds are out of the west at 15-20 mph. Snowfall is tapering off and the next shot of moisture is Wednesday night which will be followed by sunny skies and seasonal temperatures.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion



Bridger Range Northern Gallatin Northern Madison

Since Saturday night 6-10" fell in the northern mountains and 3-6" fell in the south. Ridgetop winds are westerly at 15-20 mph in the Bridger Range and are strong enough to drift snow and create wind slabs. Areas with the deepest snow, least amount of rocks, and most inviting skiing will be wind-loaded areas: gullies and higher elevation slopes. This presents a quandary because wind-loaded slopes are where someone could trigger an avalanche.



Southern Madison Southern Gallatin Lionhead Range Cooke City

Since Saturday night 6-10" fell in the northern mountains and 3-6" fell in the south. Ridgetop winds are westerly at 15-20 mph in the Bridger Range and are strong enough to drift snow and create wind slabs. Areas with the deepest snow, least amount of rocks, and most inviting skiing will be wind-loaded areas: gullies and higher elevation slopes. This presents a quandary because wind-loaded slopes are where someone could trigger an avalanche.

Avalanches are more easily triggering during a storm and soon after the snowfall and or wind-loading stops...today and tomorrow. Even small avalanches injure and kill. The sacred rules of backcountry travel are not loosened in October:

- Carry rescue gear (beacon shovel and probe) along with other personal safety you normally carry mid-winter (i.e. helmet or airbag).
- Only expose one person at a time in avalanche terrain, both heading up and sliding down.
- Cracking and collapsing of the snow, most likely in wind drifts, are signs that slopes are unstable and could avalanche.

With snow on the ground, now is a good time to sharpen our minds and check our gear. Replace batteries in your beacon, recharge your airbag, make sure probe poles aren't sticky, and shovel parts fit together smoothly. There

are many avalanche education opportunities this fall, such as an avalanche workshop next [Wednesday evening \(October 11\) at MSU](#). Check out the full education offerings [HERE](#).

This month we are preparing for winter, scheduling avalanche classes, and setting up weather stations. If you get outside send us an observation via our website, email (mtavalanche@gmail.com), phone (406-587-6984), or tag us on Instagram (#gnfacobs).

Upcoming Events and Education

Powder Blast Fund-raiser

Friday, 27 October, 6:30 p.m. at the Emerson Cultural Center. [Tickets and Info](#)

Grizzly Outfitters of Big Sky is title sponsor of this year's 19th Annual Powder Blast. **Mystery Ranch, World Boards, Community Food Co-op**, and **Spark R&D** are key sponsors along with **Alpine Orthopedics, Stronghold Fabrication, Highline Partners**, and **Marcie Hahn-Knoff Real Estate. Javaman, Edward Jones** and **Buck Products** are other long-time PB supporters.

Join us for the best fundraiser of the year! All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Avalanche Center which supports avalanche awareness, education and information throughout southwest Montana.

Your \$30 donation gets you an unforgettable evening at the Emerson Cultural Center.

Beer from **Katabatic Brewing Company**; Wine from **Montana Ale Works**; Dinner by **Bountiful Table**; Music by **DJ Missy O'Malley**

And the best silent auction of outdoor gear in the valley!

[Events and Education Calendar](#) - Stay tuned as we will update our calendar with more classes over the next few months.

5 October, **Avalanche Awareness @ MSP Ski Movie**, 6:15 p.m. at Emerson Center

11 October, **MSU Snow and Avalanche Workshop**, 5-9 p.m. at M.S.U. **Free event!** [Info Here](#)

1 November, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7:30 p.m. at REI Bozeman

6 December, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7:30 p.m. at REI Bozeman

7 December, **Avalanche Awareness and Beacon Practice**, 6-8 p.m. at Beall Park, Bozeman

Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 2, 3 or 9, **Introduction to Avalanches w/ Field Day**, [Info and Register Here](#)

Jan. 12 and 13, **Companion Rescue Clinic**, [Info and Register](#)

Jan. 17, 18 and 20 or 21, **Introduction to Avalanches w/ Field Day**, [Info and Register Here](#)

Jan. 24, 25 and 27, **Advanced Avalanche Workshop w. Field Day**, [Info and Register Here](#)

Feb. 9 and 10, **Companion Rescue Clinic**, [Info and Register](#)