



# Alaska Avalanche School

## Hatcher Pass – Independence Mine Visitor Center



Your goal! The Visitor's Center

### Your Tuition Includes

- Floor space at the Hatcher Pass Visitor Center

### The Night Before the Course Begins

We encourage you to travel to the Hatcher Pass Visitor Center the night before the course begins so you won't be late the first morning. The Visitor Center will be open at 8 pm the night before the course begins for those wishing to come up early. Remember, driving time from downtown Anchorage to the Hatcher Pass Lodge is usually around 1.5 hours *if* the roads are in good shape. Don't forget to factor in time to travel from the parking lot to the Visitor Center (approximately 30-45 minutes travel on foot or skis).

### Hatcher Pass Venue

The classroom portion of the training will be held at the Independence Mine State Historical Park Visitor Center located at 3,500 feet on the Palmer side of Hatcher Pass in the Talkeetna Mountains.

### Directions

From Anchorage head north on the Glenn Highway to the Palmer/Wasilla highway split. Take Highway 3 exit toward Wasilla. Take the Trunk Road Exit approximately .5 miles after the split. Take a right turn at the exit onto Trunk Road and continue straight on Trunk Road through two roundabouts to the T intersection at Palmer-Fishhook Road. Turn left onto North Palmer-Fishhook Road. This road leads you into the Hatcher Pass valley. Stay on this road until you reach the end. About .5 miles from the end of the road you will see the Hatcher Pass Lodge (the A-Frame buildings on your right). Drive to the end of the road and park in this parking lot. There is a gate and trail at the end of the lot by the pit toilets. This is the path that leads to the Visitor Center. You will travel by ski or snowshoes with your gear up to the Visitor Center. This takes about 30-45 minutes from the parking lot.



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## Parking

The parking fee has been waived for students. Please place this letter on your dashboard as proof of involvement with this course.

## Accommodation

### Visitor Center

There is free sleeping bag space allowed on the main floor of the Visitor Center for all nights of the course. You are encouraged to arrive at the center the night before the first day of the course (between 8 pm and 10 pm). Bring a light to mid-weight sleeping bag and pad. Feel free to put your bed anywhere you like on the main floor but be aware that the central living space will need to be cleared for the indoor class sessions. This is a heated building, there is a coffee maker, microwave, and hot water is available for tea, hot chocolate, or instant meals. There is no cook stove or kitchen available. Camp stoves are not allowed in or near the building. Electricity is provided via an on-site generator. Students are welcome to stay at the Visitor Center for the duration of the course. Alcohol is not allowed at the Visitor Center.

### Camping

Camping outside is not allowed at the Visitor Center. Please keep your dogs at home during the course!

### Private Rooms

Parking lot with pit toilets, the trail to the Visitor's Center is by the gate at the end of the lot.

Those wishing private rooms and who don't mind spending the extra time and effort commuting to the Visitor Center can arrange lodging at Hatcher Pass Lodge by calling (907) 745-5897.

## Food

Students are responsible for all of their food during the course. Bring enough food to feed yourself for three full days. We could have stuff to share, like a potluck dinner, after the first field day of the course so we can gather to know each other better. Dinner can be warmed with the on-site microwave. Lunches will be in the field so plan your menu accordingly.