

Safety Site

Monica Palmer, Safety Administrator

Recreational Safety takes Responsibility & Control

Avalanche Statistics 2022-2023

US Avalanche Fatalities (as of 3/3/2023)	
2022-2023 SEASON	
16 US fatalities	
Activity	Killed
Skier †	5
Snowboarder †	2
Snowmobiler	6
Snowshoer/Climber/Hiker	3
Other	0
Total	16
† Inbounds skier/boarder	0
2021-2022 SEASON	
17 US fatalities	
Activity	Killed
Skier †	5
Snowboarder †	1
Snowmobiler	6
Snowshoer/Climber/Hiker	4
Other	1
Total	17
† Inbounds skier/boarder	0

This information above was courtesy of Avalanche.org.

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) maintains the database of record on avalanche deaths in the United States.

With the unusual amount of snow this season, especially on the west coast, I expected to see even higher deaths from avalanches this season. However, the season is not over yet. Some resorts in the Sierra have received over 50 feet of snow so far. As you can see from the charts, there were no avalanche fatalities, either last season or the present season, among skiers and borders who stayed inbounds.

My advice is to ski inbounds and also avoid skiing in the trees. With the abundance of snow, tree wells are even more dangerous. Ski with a buddy and stay in touch. If you are set on skiing through the backcountry, bring the appropriate avalanche gear, including a shovel, beacon and probe. Also, avoid going alone. Approximately 150 people are killed each year in avalanches around the world. Let someone know where you will be skiing in advance and touch base with them often.

Stay Safe

Monica Palmer

FWSA Safety Chair