

Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue Course

This popular two-day intensive course will teach you the basic skills required for traveling on a glacier and small party self rescue. Ice axe arrest, roped travel techniques, crevasse rescue, ascending and descending a fixed line, use of friction hitches and setting up hauling and lowering systems will be covered. All instruction will be by IMCS Senior guides with extensive climbing experience in the greater ranges of the world. This practical "nuts and bolts" course will take the mystery out of these systems and provide you with the skills necessary to negotiate glaciers and crevasses with more confidence and awareness.



Did you know that:

- Hauling an unconscious victim from a crevasse could injure them further or possibly kill them.
- Crevasses often form in predictable patterns on a glacier.
- Roping up and moving together on certain glaciers may *not* be a good idea?
- Certain hauling systems effective for use on a rock rescue may be dangerous on a crevasse rescue.
- The most experienced climber might not be the best choice to go in front of the party.



GTCR students performing a dropped loop haul.

If you are planning a trip to Alaska, Canadian Rockies, Cascades, Europe Nepal, South America, or anywhere in the high mountains where crevasses are found, this course is a valuable introduction or refresher course.

Critical skills will be covered through discussion and demonstration followed by hands-on practice with time reserved for focusing on the skills most relevant to your objectives or to strengthening troublesome techniques.

Glaciers are common in many ranges of the world and knowing how to travel on them safely and efficiently is a key skill in any mountaineer's repertoire. This course will delve into the finer points of the more technical components of crevasse rescue. Like any complex skill, practice is the best way to hone your technique. IMCS guides will give you an arsenal of techniques that you can practice to perfection before you venture onto the "rivers of ice" guarding the high peaks. We build a foundation of basic skills like tying into an evenly divided rope, applying your ascending gear *before* you start, synchronizing direction changes with the party and glacial features and terminology. We move on to identify visual cues on the glacier, and clever tricks to help you grovel out of a "punch-through". More complicated techniques of rope ascent and haul systems are put into context and then practiced thoroughly until they stick!

Glacier Travel, Crevasse Rescue Course Contents



- ← Route finding on a glacier, glacial features, daily, seasonal and geographical characteristics of glaciers, hazards. Probing bridges, belay methods.
- ← Roped party travel. When to rope up, considerations for sizing the rope team, placement on the rope, moving together efficiently, etc.
- ← Snow anchors: pickets, flukes, T-axe, etc.
- ← Crevasse self-extrication, rope ascent and descent. Edge preparation.
- ← Partner rescue. Arresting, anchoring, hauling and lowering systems. Ape hauling, dropped loop, 2:1 and 3:1 hauling. Medical considerations.
- ← Small party rescue. Two rope hauling methods. Anchoring concerns.
- ← Skiing on a glacier in ascent and while descending. When to rope up.
- ← Sleds and glacier travel.

Note that the technical components of rope ascent and hauling may be accomplished in a rock environment or indoors at our indoor climbing wall.

Knots and Hitches

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clove Hitch • Muentner hitch • Muentner Mule hitch • Prussik • Klemheist • Autoblock | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water knot • Figure of eight • Figure of eight follow through • Figure of eight on bight • Bowline • Bowline on a bight |
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Recommended Equipment

Prussik loops (2) (1) is a 3ft section of 6-7mm cord (1) is a 4 to 5ft section of 6-7mm cord	Cordelettes (2) - 16ft to 20ft section of 6-7mm cord with a double fisherman's or overhand knot
Locking carabiners (4) Pear shaped preferred, for use with Muentner hitches	Non locking carabiners (4)
Mechanical prussiks (Tibloc, Ropeman)	Small rescue knife
Shoulder length sewn or knotted slings (3)	Double length sewn slings (1-2)

Registration Information

Deposits & Payments

A \$100 deposit is required to register for this course. The balance will be due at the start of the course or day of instruction. Payments and deposits may be made by credit card (VISA, MasterCard, or American Express), check, or cash.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

If you must cancel your reservation for any reason please give us as much prior notice as possible.

- A full refund of deposit will be given for cancellations made more than two weeks prior to the start of the course.
- For cancellations made two weeks or less before the start of the course we will apply the deposit as credit towards a course at a later time.
- No refund will be given to "no shows" and you will be charged for two full days of climbing.
- This course can run in inclement weather.



Students testing a snow bollard

Personal Gear

It is helpful to bring any mountaineering gear that you may already own so that you can become familiar with its use in a rescue scenario. Your guide can provide additional equipment as necessary or all equipment. Take the opportunity to find out from your guide what gear is useful and/or necessary for safe travel in glacial terrain. Personal gear includes water proof or water resistant rain gear, clothes appropriate to the weather as well as the indoor climbing wall, sunglasses, SPF 25+ sunscreen in the sunnier months, and camera. Helmets are mandatory while climbing and are available from IMCS.

Course Pricing

IMCS Glacier Travel Crevasse Rescue Course price is determined by the ratio of guides to climbers. If a course does not fill we may cancel the program. We will contact you well ahead of time and give you the option of paying a private surcharge so that the course or trip will run on the scheduled dates. You will also have the option of transferring your reservation to another date that has the requisite number of participants.



International Mountain Climbing School, Inc.
It is Time to Climb!

When and Where

The course begins at I.M.E. at 8:30am. Some amount of time will be spent with introductions, discussion of your experience and goals as well as plans for the course, a gear check, and signing of a liability release form. We will need to take final payment at this time if it has not already been made.

Medical Care

All climbers currently taking medication, having prior medical conditions, problematic injuries, recent surgeries or allergies must make them known to the guide. In this way we may provide the safest and most enjoyable experience possible. The guide has the right to disqualify anyone at any time from certain activities, if he/she has reason to believe that the person is not capable of participating in the activity safely. Your safety is our primary concern.



Rock climbing, ice climbing and mountaineering are activities that involve risk.

Here at IMCS we help you identify and deal with these risks. Our programs aim to provide you with the knowledge to move efficiently over varied terrain, evaluate future partners, select appropriate climbs and manage risk so you can make the most of your time in the mountains.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title
Andy Selters	Glacier Travel & Crevasse Rescue
American Alpine Club	Accidents in North American Mountaineering (annual)
The Mountaineers	Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills

