

Shoveling Education at Work: A Case Study. Success Story on Mt. Proctor, BC

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It may sound fundamental, but shoveling education is an important new frontier in avalanche education. Teaching shoveling techniques can make the difference between life and death when students are involved in a rescue—especially when the burial is deep. A success story near Fernie, British Columbia illustrates that learning to shovel properly can indeed save a life. In this case, a 23-year-old snowboarder was recovered alive after a large slab avalanche buried him two meters deep. The rescuers attribute their successful rescue to an extremely fast beacon search and the shoveling techniques they learned one month before in a recreational avalanche course. This case study provides evidence that shoveling education truly pays off in recreational avalanche courses.