



Dear Local Organization,

It's an exciting time for the Haines Avalanche Center! Community support is growing, and we're getting more and more observations sent in every year. This year we plan to have four part-time employees on the ground in Haines providing avalanche forecasting and education for the public, and gathering observations to keep backcountry users well-informed and prepared. We also maintain the Mt. Ripinsky and Chilkat Pass weather stations and support three other weather station projects in our region.

**Roughly half of our users are visitors from out of town.** They use the HAC website to track ski conditions in Haines and plan when to make their trips here to ski, snowmachine, or heli-ski. **Many of them send in observations after their trips, and visit our sponsors to enjoy all the services Haines has to offer.** In this way, we are helping to grow a winter-long local ski economy, while at the same time making all of us safer through increased information sharing. We're thrilled that your organization is a part of this growing movement!

We receive funding from a variety of sources (Haines Borough, State government, local and statewide foundations, local businesses, and individual donors). Your local sponsorship is a crucial part of our fundraising efforts and community involvement.

We hope you will join us this season in our effort to promote avalanche safety and education. ***New for this year: We have hired Brady McGuire as a forecaster. We now have a team of four forecasters which will allow us to expand our reach to more users on more days of the year. We will also be installing a new tower at the Ripinsky weather station to extend its lifespan and season of operation.***

**We offer two levels of local business sponsorship:**

### Silver

Tax-deductible Donation: **\$200**

- Your logo on HAC webpages, emails, and local events

### Gold

Tax-deductible Donation: **\$500**

- All the perks of Silver, PLUS:
- Special Social Media Callout
- Your Logo on Weather Station Pages

**Last season, HAC published 74 timely forecasts, reaching over 50,000 visitor-impressions. We taught 15 avalanche courses in Haines, reaching 158 students. With your help, we hope to reach even more this year.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Stevens".

Erik Stevens

Director - Haines Avalanche Center



## Tax-Deductible Donation Form

Haines Avalanche Center

C/O Alaska Avalanche Information Center

AAIC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

EIN # 80-0674646



You can also donate online by visiting [alaskasnow.org/donate](http://alaskasnow.org/donate) and clicking on **Haines**  
Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Person making donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please write checks to the *Alaska Avalanche Information Center*. Write HAC in the memo.**

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail to:

Erik Stevens

POB 665

Haines, AK 99827

Haines AvalancheCenter (HAC) is an office of the Alaska Avalanche Information Center (AAIC). The AAIC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. In an effort to foster support for local avalanche centers the AAIC provides insurance, non-profit status and services that small avalanche centers cannot afford. Your donation makes it possible for small avalanche centers like HAC to survive. **100% of your donation will go directly to the HAC.** If you need a receipt, just let us know and we will send one to you.

Thanks for your local support!

Erik Stevens

Haines Avalanche Center

[estevens@alaskasnow.org](mailto:estevens@alaskasnow.org)



## Alaska Avalanche Information Center

P.O. Box 665

Haines, AK 99827

[estevens@alaskasnow.org](mailto:estevens@alaskasnow.org) - [www.alaskasnow.org](http://www.alaskasnow.org)

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### Haines Avalanche Center 2020-2021 season stats:

HAC Forecast webpage visits: 18,584

HAC Facebook reach: 32,080 impressions

74 Haines forecasts published

15 Haines classes taught

158 Haines students directly reached via hands-on training (all ages)

### Haines Avalanche Center Season End Report, submitted to the American Avalanche Association May, 2021

With deep snowpack down to sea level for most of the winter, skiers and riders had no need to drive to the Chilkat pass to access the snow (which is a blessing, since the Canadian border is closed to recreational traffic). In fact, since the pass is not accessible for us in these lingering COVID times, HAC could not produce a reliable forecast for that zone. We focused instead on our two closer zones, and those forecasts benefited from the extra attention. Due to reduced funding, we once again were limited to forecasting for weekends only.

The big story this winter was the unprecedented atmospheric river event of Dec 1st-7th, 2020. This ended up being a 500-year event for Haines. It caused widespread flooding, erosion, debris flows, and landslides. The largest of the landslides destroyed part of the Beach Road neighborhood, sweeping multiple homes into the sea. Two local residents lost their lives, and many were affected by losing access to their homes. This disaster stopped almost everything in the community for weeks. HAC staff spent all of December helping in the disaster response and directly participating with the Borough's Emergency Operations Center. Rainfall totals for the event were staggering:

24-hour total: 7.18"

48-hour total: 10.49"

7-day total: 14.85"

This atmospheric river was well-forecasted in advance. We bumped the avalanche danger to Extreme for Dec. 1st and 2nd. Our wording in the forecast was simple: "If we receive as much precip. as expected, that would likely be a 75-100 year storm, as per the National Weather Service. It is not out of the question to see 75-100 year avalanches as well."

We ended up with a 500-year storm. While the big story ended up being the landslides and devastation, this was also a large snow avalanche event. One avalanche at Chilkat Lake was large enough to break through the thick lake ice, causing a small tsunami that propagated across the lake and broke up all the ice, flooding the opposite shore.

It was a wild, tragic December and we were happy to get back to normal winter operations by late January. The rest of the season brought ample snowfall and relatively benign conditions, with the occasional crust-facet PWL problem but no serious accidents.

See below for a series of photos from this year's season.

Haines Avalanche Center would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of its supporters, sponsors, and contributors this year!



Winter Schedule

**BODY 10**  
PHYSICAL THERAPY & YOGA MEDICINE

Dr. Mamie Hartman, PT, CSCS, RYT

Tuesday 5:30-6:45pm  
Creative Vinyasa flow - bring requests this class is custom tailored to you

Wed 5:15-6:15pm  
GLYS only all level Vinyasa/Hatha

Thursday 5:30-6:45pm  
Happy Hour for Diners - Vinyasa Flow - all levels and nonstrikers welcome

At the Tower in the Fort 907-766-2600

**PEAK**  
CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Royal Caribbean Group

Ⓜ ⓧ Ⓜ Ⓜ Ⓜ Ⓜ

**1**  
First National Bank  
ALASKA  
MEMBER FDIC

**Olerud's**  
GROCERY • OUTDOOR GEAR • APPAREL  
market center

**CONSTANTINE**  
MINING

**MALO NIŠTA**  
CULINARY SERVICES

**Chilkat Valley Community Foundation**  
An Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation



Haines Avalanche Center

November 30, 2020 · 🌐

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Expecting very heavy precipitation rates Monday night- Wednesday. Possible record accumulations of 5-10" of water equivalent through Wednesday afternoon. Snow levels start at sea level today and will be rising to near 4000ft by the end of the storm. We are expecting a large or very large natural avalanche cycle during this period. Please avoid all avalanche terrain and lower runout zones. Also, keep an eye on the loading on your roof when heavy rain begins falling over heavily laden roofs.

# Winter Storm Warning

Haines Highway and Klondike Highway

## WHAT TO EXPECT



Heavy snow with accumulations of 24 to 36 inches. Wind gusts up to 45 mph.

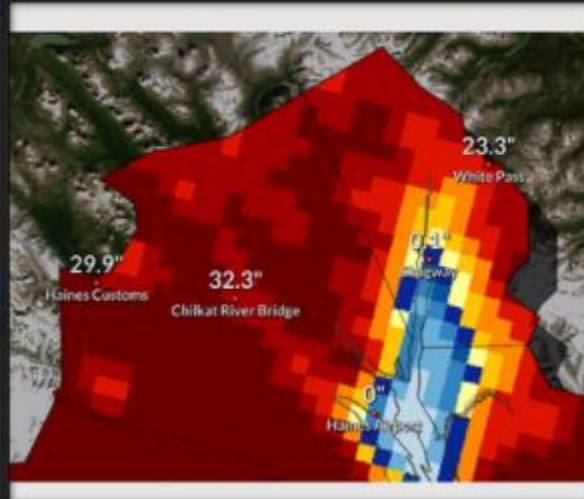


6 PM Monday to 9 PM Tuesday

## MAIN CONCERNS



Visibility will be poor. Objects will be blown around in the wind. Power outages are possible. Hazardous travel conditions.



National Weather Service | Juneau, AK

Issued: 11/30/2020 6:36 AM

5,324  
People Reached

385  
Engagements

Boost Post

**Caption:** On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 2 days before the destructive December Weather Event, HAC began sounding the alarm on social media. Our prediction of 5-10" of rain was close. In the end, 10.49" of rain fell in 48 hours. It was the worst storm on record in Haines, and considered a 500-year event by the National Weather Service.



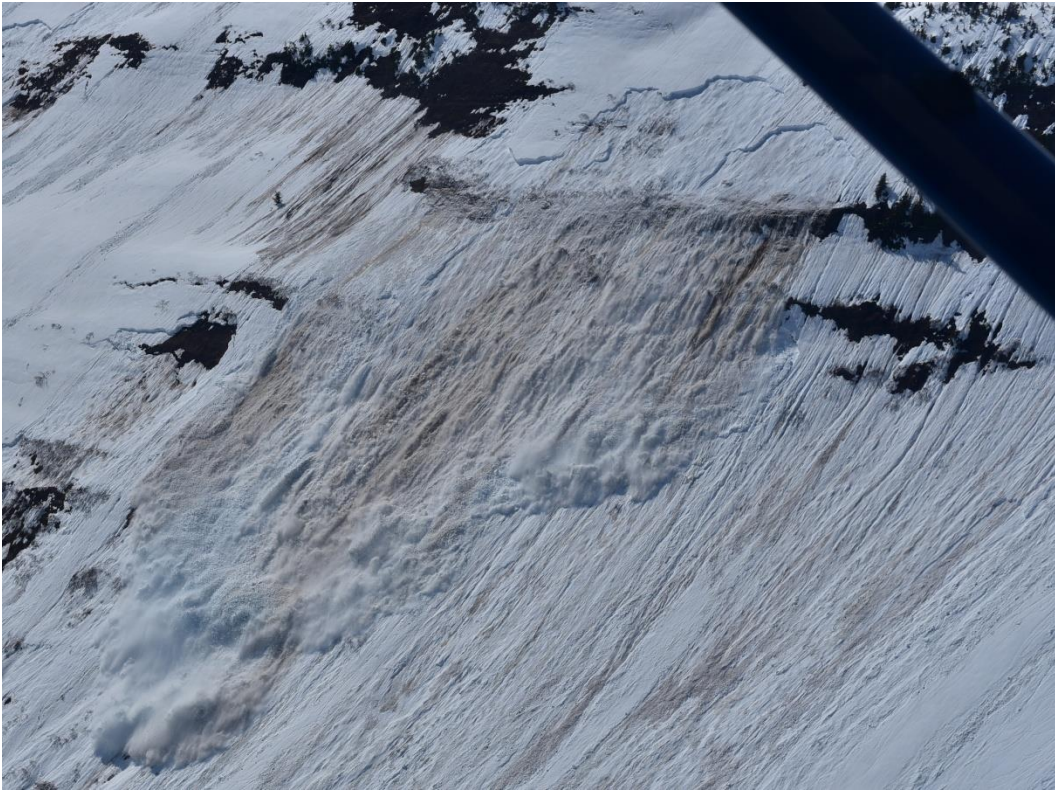
**Caption:** This large avalanche crossed the Haines Highway at 21-mile on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This is a historically inactive path that may have expanded to reach the highway this year. We will be keeping an eye on it and other Haines Highway paths as winter comes in again.



**Caption:** HAC Forecaster/Educator Jeff Moskowitz teaching avalanche beacon skills to students at the Haines School. February, 2021.



**Caption:** This year's extremely deep snowpack challenged our forecasters to dig quite deep to assess buried weak layers. Luckily, deep snowpacks tend to be stronger and less avalanche-prone.



**Caption:** April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, HAC staff caught this D3 Wet Avalanche in action in our Transitional Zone. This was a big year for wet slides in Haines, with a deep spring snowpack that clashed with record high temperatures in late April and May.