



# Avalanche Rescue Drill

## Quick Guide

### Phases of a Rescue:

1. Start Line
2. Signal Search
3. Coarse Search
4. Fine Search
5. Pinpoint Search
6. Extraction





# 1. Start Line (before doing anything else):

- Pause and assess for secondary avalanche danger — don't rush into danger.
- If possible, call Search & Rescue (SAR) immediately and give your location (e.g. via What3Words).
- Switch all transceivers to search mode; ensure everyone crossing the line does the same.
- Move to the last seen location of the victim (or top of debris field).





## 2. Signal Search:

- From last-seen point (or top), traverse across the debris at constant elevation.
- Use a “lawnmower” pattern:
  - Stop ~10 m from the edge (flank), then move downhill ~20 m, turn back across, etc.
  - Repeat passes until you detect a signal.
- If uncertain, use 20 m spacing & don’t start in the middle.
- Practice visualising what 20 m looks like in the field (string, probe, etc.).





## 2. Signal Search:





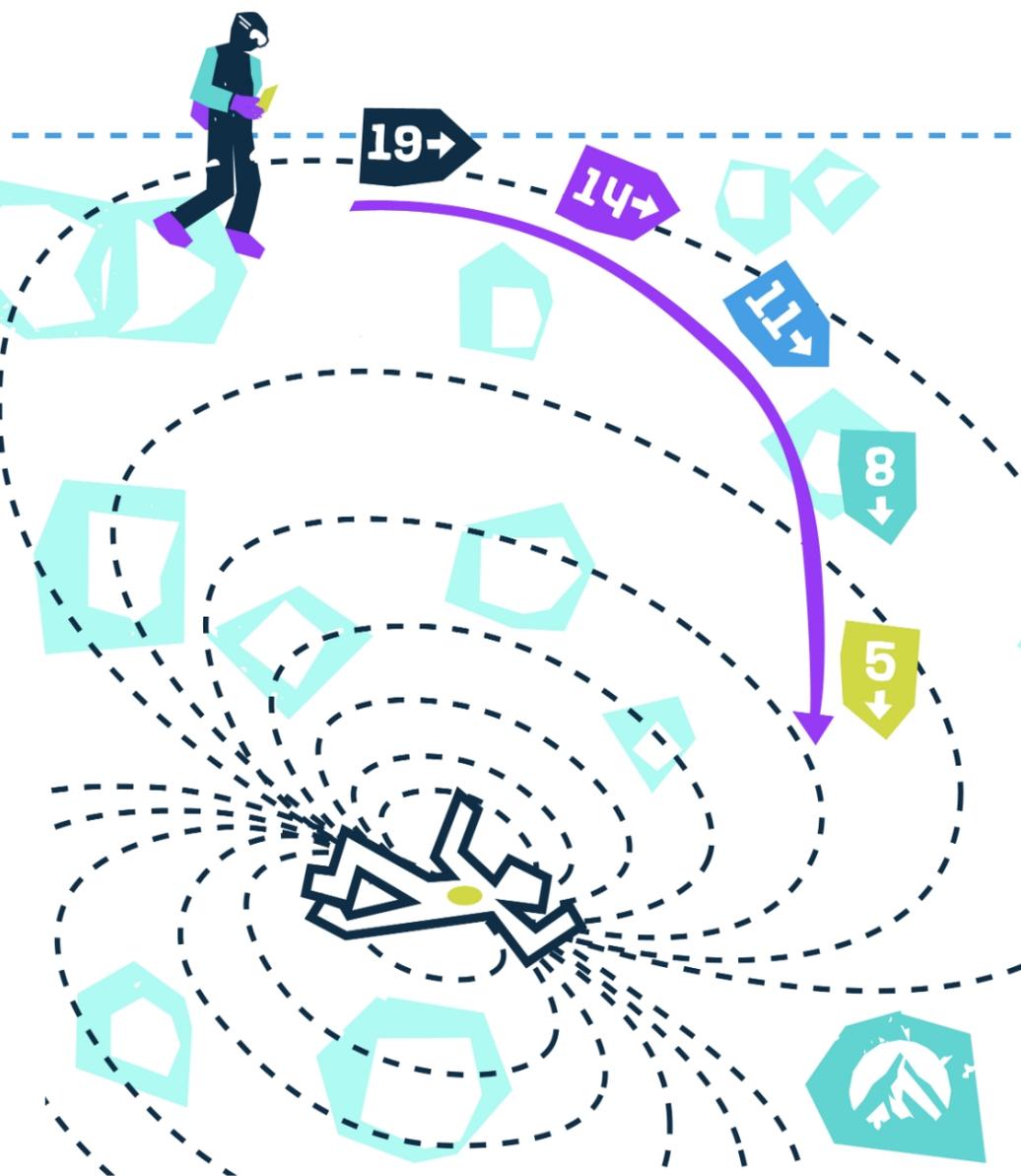
## 3. Coarse Search:

- When a signal is detected, align the beacon and follow it until you reach ~5 m distance.
- Monitor the distance: if it goes up, return to where the signal was first picked up and continue signal search.
- Be aware that near the edge of detection, signal may fluctuate — don't switch prematurely.





## 3. Coarse Search:





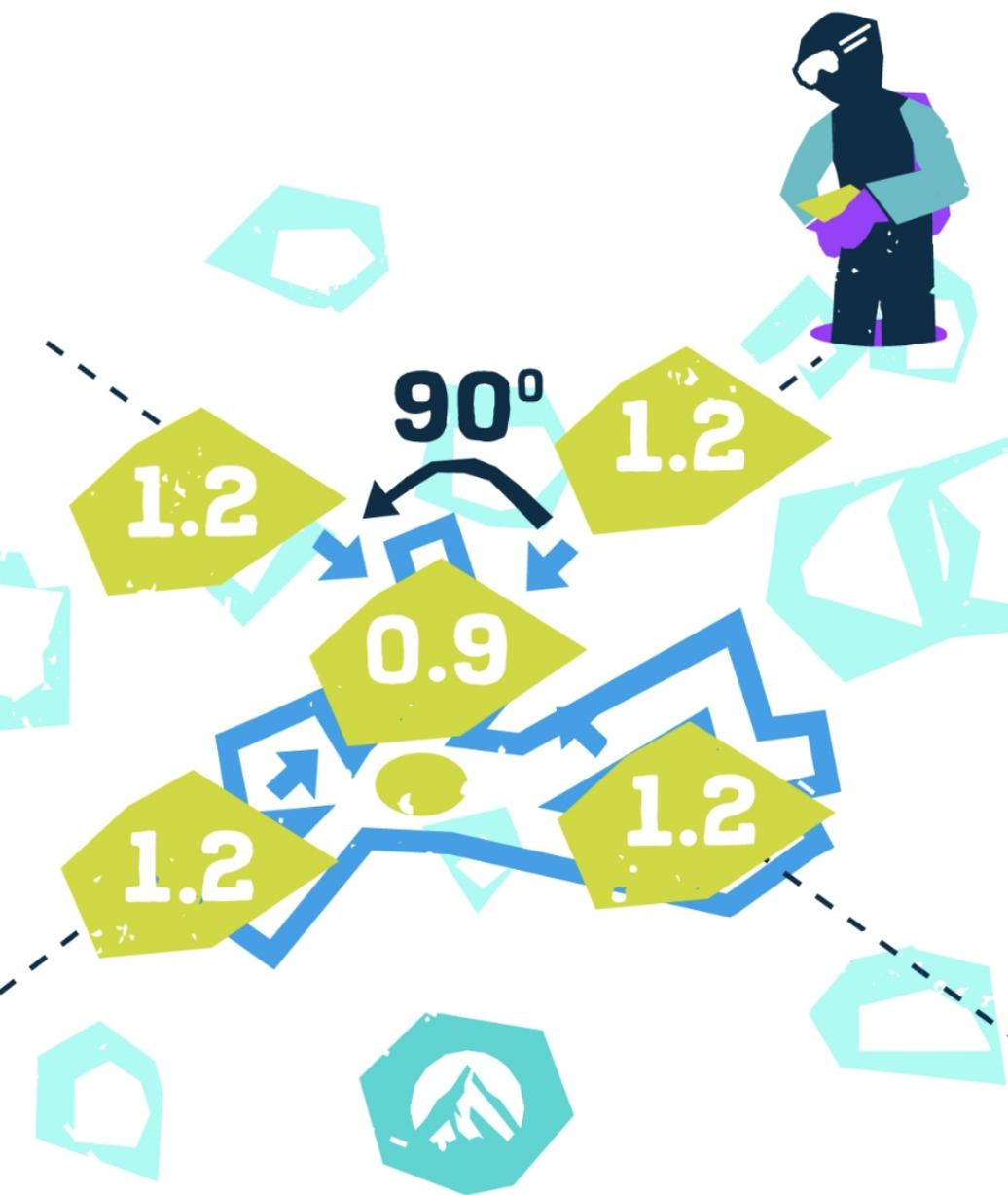
## 4. Fine Search:

- At ~5 m distance, slow down, get close to the snow surface (hands & knees).
- Move steadily forward, observing distance readings.
- When you pass the buried victim (signal goes up), go back to lowest reading, mark it.
- Then bracket (move perpendicular, left/right) to find the lowest reading (i.e. most likely point of burial).





## 4. Fine Search:





## 5. Pinpoint Search (Probe Deployment)

- After marking lowest point, do not dig yet. Remove rucksack, ready shovel & probe first.
- Assemble your probe carefully (check locking mechanisms).
- Probe perpendicular to slope (90°).
- If no strike, spiral outwards with ~25-30 cm spacing until you hit something.
- Leave the probe in place once you find the victim to mark the spot.

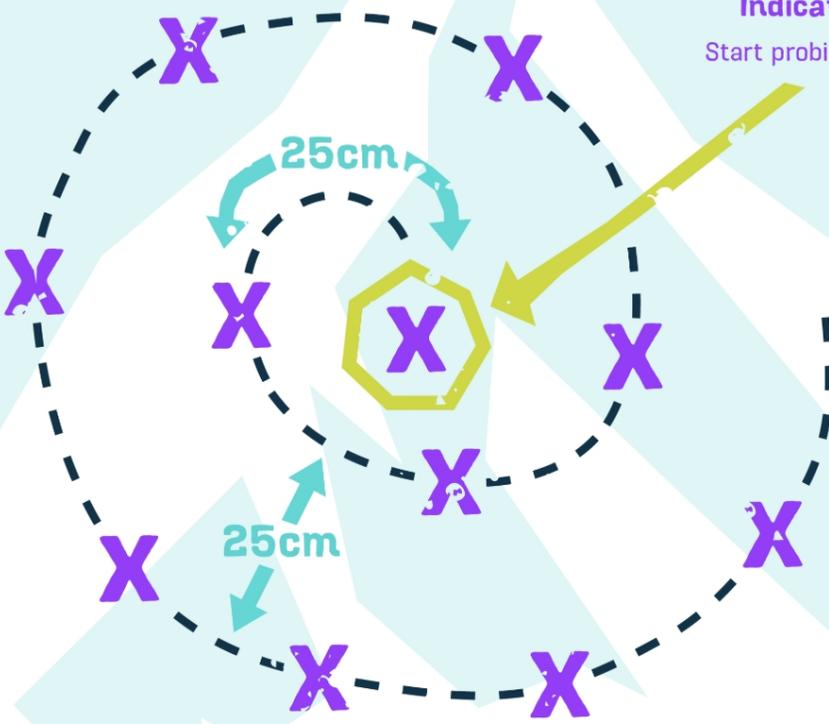




# 5. Pinpoint Search (Probe Deployment)

## Spiral Probe

Lowest Distance  
Indication  
Start probing here





## 6. Extraction:

- Note burial depth from probe. Choose a digging point downhill so you dig horizontally (less risk to victim).
- Create a platform (bench) for better access, CPR, etc. Don't dig straight down.
- Move snow carefully (place it downhill, diagonal, minimise re-moving).
- Once you reach the body, clear airway first. Other injuries second.
- Use a good, robust shovel; avoid weak plastic ones for serious rescue work.

