



Forest Service News Release

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Warm weather brings increased avalanche danger to Chugach National Forest trails

**The Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center has issued a
[SPECIAL AVALANCHE BULLETIN](#)
effective from Friday, April 16, 2021 12:00 AKDT TO Sunday, April 18, 2021 22:00 AKDT**

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – April 16, 2021 – Sunny skies and warming temperatures are expected to coincide with heightened avalanche conditions across Southcentral Alaska this weekend. As the weather in Southcentral Alaska transitions dramatically from winter to spring, we urge visitors to the Chugach National Forest to check current avalanche conditions at www.chugachavalanche.org.

Many popular summer trails across the Forest are beginning to melt out, particularly in the Portage Valley. Byron Glacier Trail, Portage Pass Trail, and sections of the Trail of Blue Ice traverse under dangerous avalanche paths that have yet to release the winter snowpack. Trails on the Kenai, such as the Russian Lakes Trail, also cross under avalanche paths. As the weather warms and the snowpack continues to weaken, summer trails may be impacted by large, lethal, naturally releasing avalanches. We recommend avoiding these hiking trails until the overhead avalanche hazard melts out or slides naturally.

The following could signal dangerous avalanche conditions:

- Signs of recent avalanche activity
- Cracking in the snow or ‘whumpfung’ sounds in the snowpack
- Snowballs rolling spontaneously down slopes during daytime warming
- Any dramatic weather changes including rapid warming, high winds or heavy snow/rain

If you’re traveling in avalanche terrain this spring, take the time to familiarize yourself with the potential hazards. Let someone know where you’re going and when you’ll return, and carry appropriate avalanche rescue gear and a communication device.

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