



<b>Snow-Zone Pack</b>	
Snow-zone operations require avalanche rescue gear and ability to camp overnight or even wait out a complete storm cycle in snow-covered terrain.	
Required	Recommended Options
<b>All 72-hour pack items, plus:</b> Avalanche rescue transceiver, probe & shovel Balaclava or other head/face protection Bottle, water, wide-mouth*, liter Cap (must cover the ears) Gloves, extra (3 pairs) Goggles, snow Insulation layers (no cotton), extra Parka, weatherproof, breathable, with hood Sack, bivy Socks, winter, extra Sunscreen/lip balm, SPF 30+ Sunglasses (Not required if goggles are tinted)	Blanket, space (reusable type) Pad, extra, insulated (Reflectex) Extra gear to care for a stranded subject  *(Water containers with narrow openings tend to form ice plugs in freezing temperatures.)

## ***Shopping Tips***

### **Frame and Suspension**

Look for a contoured frame and a shoulder harness-waist belt suspension system. The distance between the waist band and the shoulder straps must match your torso length. A knowledgeable shop employee can help you with this. Many packs have gender-specific suspension systems.

Higher-end harnesses have wider shoulder straps and hip belt, with a stiffening layer and good padding to better distribute pressure on shoulders and hips. Ventilation features between the pack and your back are a definite plus for summertime operations. Compression straps on the sides of a pack allow the thickness of the pack to be adjusted for the load, keeping contents close to your back and stable, helping balance and posture.

### **Capacity**

It should be able to carry all your gear *inside*. Items fastened to the outside may get damaged, torn off or hang you up while moving through dense brush.

### **Organization**

Choose between top, front and side openings; one big chamber or many pockets, depending on how you like to organize things.

### **Weatherproofing**

Consider a fitted pack rain cover, a poncho that accommodates both you and your pack, or lining the pack with a garbage bag so the contents stay dry even if the pack gets wet.

### **Winter Packs**

Some dedicated winter packs lack back ventilation in order to both insulate your back and use body heat to keep water containers inside from freezing. They may have dedicated quick-access pockets for avalanche rescue gear and external lashing to carry skis, split boards or snowshoes. Some have an insulated channel for a hydration tube inside a shoulder strap to help keep it from freezing.