

Winter backcountry areas are hazardous

Hokkaido's winter snowy mountain panoramas are very beautiful
But, remember

THERE ARE INHERENT RISKS
when entering the backcountry.
To enjoy the nature in Hokkaido, observe the following rules.

- ▶ **1. Check weather and avalanche information**
 - Are there any wind or snow advisories or warnings issued?
 - Is there a high risk of avalanche?
 - Do you have access to the latest weather forecast?
- ▶ **2. Check the terrain and route**
 - Are your skills and strength sufficient for the intended route?
 - Do you have a clear plan from start through finish of your intended outing?
- ▶ **3. Carry the right winter equipment**
 - Do you have the three MUST - HAVE items (beacon, probe and shovel)?
 - Do you have the equipment and food to survive during bad weather?
 - Do you have a mobile GPS and a communication device such as a mobile phone (plus spare batteries) ?
- ▶ **4. Submit a mountaineering plan**
 - Travel in a group don't go alone.
 - Is your intended mountaineering plan feasible?
Have you submitted a mountaineering plan to the police or someone not in your party?
- ▶ **5. Be willing to turn back**
 - Are you prepared to turn around during bad weather or times of no visibility?
 - Do you know how to act to save your life in the case of an emergency?

Hokkaido Prefectural Police