

Guidelines for Operational Decisions

- Press release preferred 4 to 6 hours before closing the highway

Example: WY22: *The Wyoming Department of Transportation has scheduled a closure of Teton Pass for tomorrow, Monday January 7, 2019 at 3:00 AM for avalanche control. Reduced visibility, winter driving conditions and increasing avalanche hazard may force an earlier closure. No overnight parking at the summit of Teton Pass/Coal Creek will be strictly enforced. Highway travelers and backcountry users are advised to plan accordingly. Thank you for your cooperation. 6-JAN 14:51.*

- Sweeping the road following closure takes 20-30 minutes. You have automated closure gates to close the road immediately.

- Gazex (AX) and Avalanche Guard (AP) can be operated remotely and will take 10-15 minutes from start to finish.

- Artillery (AA) will take at least two hours to set up and an hour or more to shoot depending on the number of targets.

- Helicopter (AH) targets require good weather (VFR flight rules) and helicopter availability. This type of avalanche control is rarely used, but is cost effective and can reach targets that other methods cannot reach.

- Hand thrown explosives (AE) on the Beaver Slides will take 15-20 minutes for ski ascent and then another 15-20 minutes to execute. Requires two workers

- Clearing the backcountry around possible AX, AA, AH, AP, and AE targets may take hours (sunset +), unless you station Wyoming Highway Patrol at the top of the pass and prevent parking at the start of the day

- Small debris piles on the road (four feet deep or less, without trees, < 50' of centerline covered) will take 30-60 minutes to clear.

- Large debris piles will take "longer"

- Evaluate when it is safe for WYDOT workers to clean up the mess you made.