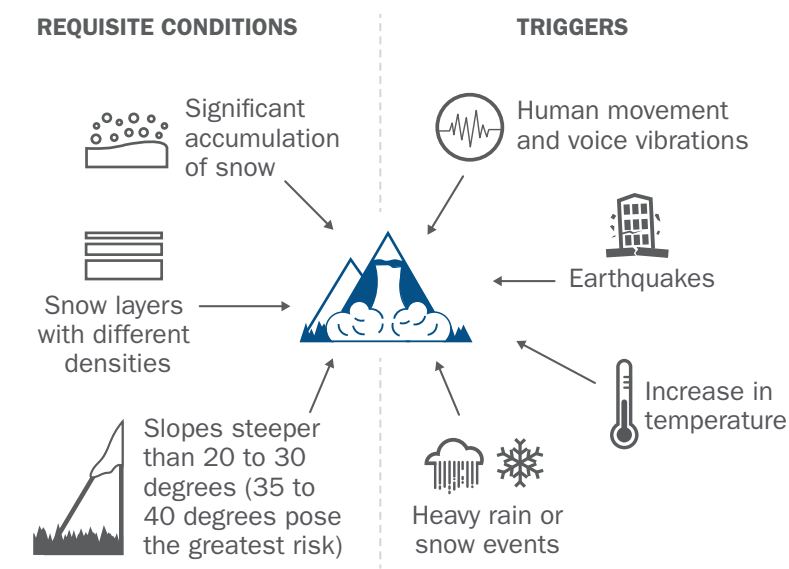


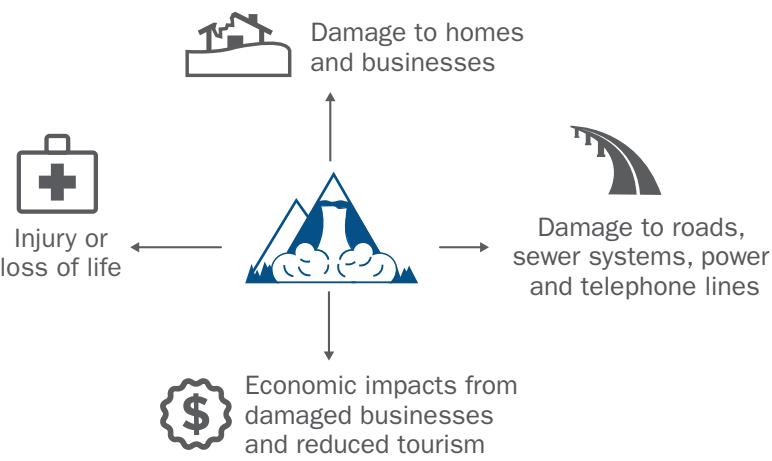
# AVALANCHES

The swift downhill movement of a large mass of snow, ice, earth, rock, and other material.

## CAUSES



## IMPACTS



## Reducing Risk

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Find out if you live, work, or travel through a known avalanche zone
- Learn to identify warning signs and triggering events
- Sign up for emergency notifications
- Check current conditions and forecasts before doing outdoor activities
- Get professional advice about the use of protective structures

### WHAT YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAN DO:

- Develop a buyout program and relocate homes in high-risk areas
- Adopt and require Avalanche Design Standards to reduce vulnerabilities
- Trigger controlled avalanches to prevent dangerous levels of snow accumulation
- Develop an Avalanche Path Study Area Map and conduct a specific avalanche-hazard study
- Delineate areas of known and potential avalanche paths
- Adopt an avalanche ordinance to restrict development in high-risk areas and limit access during post-avalanche periods
- Protect vulnerable structures and infrastructure using protective measures such as retention, redistribution, or catchment structures

For more information on avalanche risk reduction, please contact the State of Alaska Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) Coordinator, Sally Russell Cox at [sally.cox@alaska.gov](mailto:sally.cox@alaska.gov), (907) 269-4588.