



Roughly 65% of the victims who perished in an avalanche die from a lack of oxygen (hypoxia), 15% from a combination of hypoxia, high levels of carbon dioxide (hypercapnia), and hypothermia; and, 20% die from traumatic injuries. Several factors determine the victim's ultimate chances of survival, including burial time, presence and size of an air pocket, the density of the snow, and the severity of any traumatic injuries. According to current research, there is a 91% probability of survival if you recover the victim within 18 minutes. After that, the chance of survival drops exponentially with time. Between 18-30 minutes, all persons without an air pocket die.

The total elapsed time is roughly 25 minutes. Combined with no apparent air pocket, the skier has a low (or no) chance of survival, even with CPR.

Both you and your partner are 66 years old and at high risk of severe consequences, including hospitalization and death, should you contract COVID-19. You do not have any personal protection equipment with you, specifically a simple facemask with a one-way valve and filter.

CPR carries a high exposure risk.

*Taking all three elements into account—no protection, high consequences if one of you contract COVID-19, and a low (or no) statistical chance of survival, do not to start CPR.*