

# Pack it up and head on out

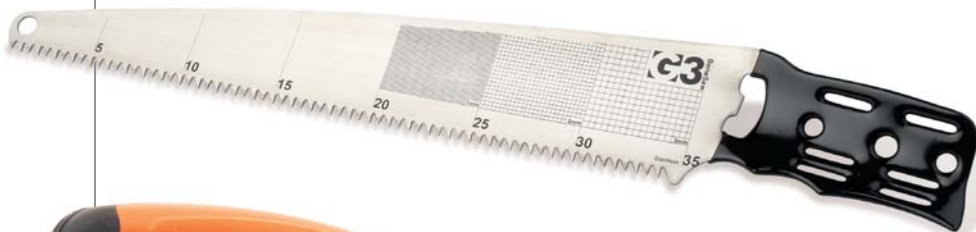


## ABS VARIO SYSTEM

Straight out of a James Bond movie, ABS packs have air bags that inflate when the user is caught in an avalanche. The increased flotation keeps the skier above the slide instead of buried in it, greatly increasing the chance of survival. With the Vario Line, backpacks of varying sizes (10-50 litres) can be attached to the basic safety unit, creating the perfect pack for any mission. \$1,045 for the base unit, \$150-\$200 for exchangeable packs; [www.abssystem.com](http://www.abssystem.com) or [www.rockymountainxtreme.com](http://www.rockymountainxtreme.com)

## TOUR SHOVEL EXT

This sleek package is for the minimalist who wants to go light and fast. The 180-cm probe tucks away into the snow shovel's handle, giving the user two crucial pieces of gear in one small package. Total weight: 652 grams. \$85; [www.backcountryaccess.com](http://www.backcountryaccess.com)



## G3 BONESAW

This brilliant tool works great while assessing stability in a snow pit or making snow shelters. It also cuts wood like a dream and even has a built-in bottle opener. \$59.95; [www.genuineguidegear.com](http://www.genuineguidegear.com)



## SPOT SATELLITE MESSENGER

The newest must-have safety device for the backcountry is the Spot Satellite Messenger. This little lifesaver can determine your location and transmit it to friends, family or an emergency service centre, depending on your situation. Friends can track your progress on Google Earth, and if you're late but not in trouble, you can even send an "OK" message to calm your parents—or the grandchildren. \$169 plus a one-year service subscription starts at \$99; [www.findmespot.com](http://www.findmespot.com)

## ORTOVOX S1

The most futuristic avalanche beacon on the market, the S1 has a flip screen that displays up to four buried victims on a grid, making it easier and faster for you to find and dig them out. On second thought, better buy one for your partner and make sure he/she practices with it! \$570; [www.ortovox.com](http://www.ortovox.com)

