

SKI AREA SAFETY TALK

Toolbox Meetings: Reducing Skiing & Snowboarding Injuries

Meeting 1 - Overview of Skiing and Snowboarding Injury Reduction

Who to attend: All Staff who might put on skis or a snowboard at some point in their season for work purposes. This could include event and marketing staff, F&B teams, all management and operations.

Discussion Leader Tools:

- Print [Meeting Record](#) and ensure every employee is recorded and that the completed record is stored so it can be accessed again if needed.
- Review the Discussion Leader Guide (page 2 in Meeting Record) for approaches to the conversation.
- [Ski Area Safety Talk: Reducing Skiing & Snowboarding Injuries](#) Part 1 (page 1 only). Print or distribute a copy to all staff in attendance. A word document is available of this Safety Talk, and Ski Areas are encouraged to update the Safety Talk based on the needs and concerns of their area.
- **Posters:** Print several copies of the "[Before you hit the slopes](#)" poster and place in staff areas, such as upper lift huts, staff lunch rooms, ski storage rooms, patrol huts etc.
- **Know your stats** - find out how many staff were injured skiing and snowboarding so far this season.

Sample Meeting Plan:

- Ensure all **staff sign in** on Meeting Record.
- **Distribute the Safety Talk** to all staff.
- Discussion leader to **introduce the topic**
 - Key stats - approx 60% of all staff injuries are related to skiing and snowboarding incidents. How many staff skiing and snowboarding injuries have happened this year?
 - Why does it matter - connect it to what staff care about. "If you get injured, you might miss some awesome ski/ride days," loss of income etc.
- **Tips Round table** - engage the team in reviewing the tips to reduce injuries. They could read off items from the Safety Talk sheet, and/or add their own thoughts.
- Share a **Video:** [CWSAA Snow sports injury reduction](#) – filmed in 2019, this video shares important reminders from snow school, patrol and lift operations on injury reduction while skiing. 2:35
- Discussion leader to **provide further insight**
 - Refer to your Employee Orientation Manual, [Alpine Responsibility Code](#) and any other company policy and procedure that provides direction on this topic.
 - Review a **real situation** that happened at your Ski Area where an employee was injured or a near miss occurred. Discuss what could have been done to change the outcome.
- **Team Discussion**
 - **Ask for input** on what can be done to reduce staff skiing and snowboarding injuries at your ski area. Suggestions on new policies, team training, wellness initiatives etc.
 - Discussion leader closing comments.
 - Comment on the notion that "Every incident follows a decision." Don't take short cuts or be complacent!
 - If you are not "**Fit for Duty**," you must speak to your supervisor.
 - Staff must report any safety concerns, incidents or near misses.