



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 13, 2011

ARIZONA SNOWBOWL TAKES SAFETY SERIOUSLY

Flagstaff, AZ - Arizona Snowbowl is extremely proud to claim the National Ski Association National Overall Safety Award for the third year in a row. This award is given to only two ski areas each year, those with up to 250,000 skiers and 250,000 and more.

PREPARATION FOR SKI SEASON

With the ski season upon us the enthusiasm and desire to be on the mountain is very high. We must manage public safety with respect to public access; during the operating hours and before and after.

Certain conditions may exist that dictate the Snowbowl Road to be closed to uphill traffic. They include 1) certain road maintenance, snow removal, and grooming activities and, 2) if the ski area is not open and road is unsafe for public access.

We want everyone to enjoy this winter, be safe, and use common sense. Other important information to share with the skiing and snowboarding community follows.

UPHILL SKI TRAIL ACCESS POLICIES

Early morning and after hours use of the ski slopes is increasing in popularity. The demand has required a few simple rules to be followed to ensure a safe experience.

- Hike uphill along the side of the ski trails and be alert for snow vehicles and equipment.
- Skiers must maintain a minimum distance of 75 feet from any snowcat or grooming machine
- No one is allowed on ski trails where winch-grooming is taking place. During winch cat operations, cables and anchors are used to assist snowcats. The cables cross trails and can be a hazard to anyone traveling in those areas. Cables may move suddenly, potentially from one side of the run to the other, without warning. No one should be on a trail where winch grooming is in progress. Signs are used at trails to warn of winch cat grooming operations
- On avalanche control days no access is allowed in the Upper Bowl and Lower Bowl above the Midway Catwalk until avalanche control is complete and closures are removed. Signs will be placed at the ski area entrance and across the uphill access on Lower Bowl / Midway Catwalk. Upper mountain access will be restricted to Ridge Trail above Midway Catwalk.

BACKCOUNTRY AND SIDE COUNTRY ACCESS AND USE

If you choose to go beyond the ski area boundary, or know someone who may, this information is very important.

- All skiers and snowboarders that leave the marked ski area boundary have sole responsibility for themselves and their actions. The backcountry is not patrolled by the Ski Patrol. Search and Rescue outside of the ski area is conducted by the Coconino County Sheriff's Office. Rescue is not immediate and may be delayed in order to safeguard the rescuers; be prepared to take care of yourself while search and rescue is responding.
- The Coconino National Forest requires a FREE annual backcountry permit.
- The risks associated with backcountry skiing are much higher than inside the ski area
- Never ski alone or with others if they do not have experience and knowledge of the area
- Become familiar with and have on your person required safety equipment.
- The best resource for information and education is Kachina Peaks Avalanche Center at <http://www.kachinapeaks.org/> or arizonasnowbowl.com/resort/backcountry_permit.php

SKIERS RESPONSIBILITY CODE

The Arizona Legislature codified the Skiers Responsibility Code in 1997 and has the effect of creating legal "rules of the slopes" that must be acknowledged and accepted by all skiers and snowboarders. The most frequent violation is the uphill skier failing to avoid the skier below them. If these rules are followed, along with mutual respect for each other, everyone will have a great day on the slopes.

- Always stay in control, and be able to stop or avoid other people or objects.
- People ahead of you have the right of way. It is your responsibility to avoid them.
- You must not stop where you obstruct a trail, or are not visible from above.
- Whenever starting downhill or merging into a trail, look uphill and yield to others.
- Always use devices to help prevent runaway equipment.
- Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.
- Prior to using any lift, you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely.

Also remember, SLEDDING IS NOT ALLOWED AT SNOWBOWL OR ALONG SNOWBOWL ROAD at any time during the winter.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE SKI SEASON AND WELCOME EVERYONE TO HAVE FUN AND BE SAFE ON THE MOUNTAIN.



For more information about the Arizona Snowbowl, call (928) 779-1951 or visit our Web site at www.arizonasnowbowl.com.

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