



PROGRAM STATUS REPORT TO THE FAR WEST DIVISION

March 8, 2013 Winter Division Board Meeting



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From: Robert Morrow,
Far West Division Avalanche Program Supervisor

2012/2013 Season

Accomplishments:

- Funded three patrollers \$300 each to attend the 2012 ISSW in Anchorage, AK. These funds provided covered approximately 75 percent of registration fees for each of the three Far West Division avalanche instructors; Don Shockey, Heavenly Mt Resort, Rich Bailey, China Peak, Karl Geisler, Northstar. In addition, Karl Geisler received an additional scholarship award from the Mike McKay Memorial Foundation <http://www.mikemckaymemorial.org/>.
- Developed and published the avalanche course calendar in early October with collaboration from the region administrators and active avalanche instructors. Ongoing updates through the season as schedule firmed up.
- Offered a calendar of avalanche courses including Avalanche Awareness (3), L1ARP (9) and L2ARP (1);
 - Nine Level 1 courses in the Division: Northern California (1), Eastern Sierra (3), Mother Lode (2), and Southern California (3).
 - One Level 2 course was scheduled and has nearly completed in the in the Eastern Sierra with a parallel session in the Mother Lode.
- Seven of nine courses received IT oversight with feedback to individual instructors. Our challenge is scheduling ITs to attend. Kudos to the ITs and Hat Tips to each IOR and the instructors to coordinate with Regional Administrator & IT for participation.
- Ongoing effort to mentor and develop new Level 1 avalanche instructors; NorCal (1), ESR (7), MLR (2), and Level 2 instructor in SoCal (1) and Mother Lode (1).
- December 2012 repeated as a venue for avalanche instructors to meet for an early season Continuing Education workshop at Mammoth Mtn. This event bridged avalanche instructors with the mountain operations and forecasting supplied by Mammoth Mtn staff. Attending instructors continued discussion on methods to improve course delivery, effective course organization of field activities used in L1 & L2 courses. We recognize that ongoing refreshing of instructor knowledge is a critical component of continuing education. We suggest all instructors become members of AAA to receive The Avalanche Review.





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2013/2014 Coming Season

Goals:

- To update instructor knowledge, presentation materials and teaching abilities. Targeted division payment of AAA membership of instructors.
- Scheduling an avalanche instructor Continuing Education clinic in the Tahoe region during the October-November period in conjunction with Desert Research Institute (DRI). Topics include mountain weather, forecasting tools, and backcountry navigation.
- 100 percent of all avalanche courses IT oversight and QA/QC performance measures.
- To identify a preliminary course schedule by September 1 and confirmed course schedule by October 30.
- To schedule early season Avalanche Awareness courses at selected ski shops as an approach to reach out and generate broader knowledge of NSP avalanche education to recreational backcountry skiers and non-patroller rescue groups.

Plan:

- To continue engagement with the Region Administrators and IT staff for effective program assessment & feedback to avalanche instructors
- To mentor both candidate instructors and current instructors to further develop their presentation materials and opportunities for avalanche instruction
- To disburse funding to the regions to enable acquisition of training equipment, beacons, shovels, probes.
- To increase IT activity within each Region of the Far West Division.
- To continue efforts for Level 2 course delivery in the Eastern Sierra, the Mother Lode, and Southern California regions.
- To hold continuing education seminars at Mammoth Mtn December 2014, Truckee/Lake Tahoe October-November 2013.
- To continue efforts to reach out to SAR groups and non-patrollers and provide courses to meet their needs.
- To facilitate instructor transition to use the upcoming release of the use of the 2013 Avalanche Instructor Manual curriculum through coordinated development of presentation materials, graphics, continuing education, and opportunities to teach.
- Avalanche Instructor tools, resources and materials available on a Google Drive that is available to all avalanche instructors. Currently available.

