

RMD AVALANCHE PROGRAM 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The RMD Avalanche Program had another successful year of quality avalanche education. Starting this season the new NSP curriculum was required for all avalanche courses which required some adjustments by instructors. This year also saw further expansion of the program in the Southwest Region.

New NSP Avalanche Instructor's Manual (AIM). With the implementation of the new AIM the program has been given more flexibility in courses offered. However, some of these changes required an extra commitment by our instructors in editing lesson plans to be consistent with the new curriculum.

In the first year of implementation several questions have surfaced about program administration and instructor qualifications and re-certifications. These questions are currently being addressed at the national level and will hopefully result in a more flexible program that can maintain a high level of quality control.

Instructor Clinics – With the implementation of the new AIM it was decided that Instructor Clinics would be necessary to introduce the new courses and curriculum changes. Due to logistics it was decided that more instructors would have an opportunity to attend clinics if they were held at the regional level. To accomplish this, the division budgeted funds for instructor clinics in each region.

Program Expansion – Thanks to the efforts of Scott Hsu, Richard Davis and Rob Deyerberg the Southwest Region is seeing a renewed enthusiasm for the avalanche program. This year courses were held at Ski Apache, Red River, Angel Fire and Pajarito.

RMD Instructors – Again I would like to thank all of the RMD Avalanche Instructors for all of their hard work and dedication. These instructors not only dedicate a lot of time to teaching courses but also spend a lot of time and money attending continuing education events such as the International Snow Science Workshop, National Avalanche School, and the Colorado Snow and Avalanche Workshop to keep up with the ever changing technology and research in avalanche and snow science. These instructors also act as great ambassadors for NSP and RMD by providing quality avalanche education to the general public. I feel RMD has one of the most knowledgeable and dedicated avalanche instructor cadres in the avalanche education community and credit the success of the RMD program to these hard working instructors.



Next Season's Goals:

- Conduct a Division Wide Level 2 course or General Skills Clinic as the need dictates.
- Continue to work with the National Program Director and National Avalanche Committee on issues related to the avalanche program and quality control.
- Work with the SW Region to develop a larger instructor cadre.
- Continue to encourage more participation by those patrols that are currently not using the program.
- Continue to stress QC within the RMD Avalanche Program.

*Respectfully Submitted: Ed Carlson
RMD Avalanche Program Supervisor*