

Safety

Turning Skills -- Vision of Skiing in the 21st Century

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Building up on the idea of a new vision for skiing in the 21st century, started in the July/August 2005 issue of "Lift Lines", resorts could make the slopes **safer** by providing more opportunities for us to practice **controlled turning**, by simply setting up a variety of **fun obstacles** on the slopes. This would not only make the slopes more **fun**, but would also **slow traffic down**, make the slopes **safer**, and lift lines **shorter**.

Urge ski areas to implement this idea. Here's just one of the ways:



Use orange cones!

A Terrain Park for Turning

Instead of jumps, give us something to turn around. Traffic cones, scattered all over the slope is just one inexpensive way to do that.

Just 30 cones were enough to create this fun little maze! Different people choose different paths, thus delaying the formation of ruts.



For more ideas, and the whole vision, see our web site at: www.mthigh.org/Vision.htm.

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Playing with Cones - by Emilio Trampuz



After talking and writing about this for a couple of years, I finally summoned the courage to ask a ski area to allow me to set up some orange cones on the slopes, just to see how people would react to it.

It happened at Warner Canyon, during our club

trip there. Thanks to the folks at Warner Canyon for letting us try this. Here's what we learned as a result:

1. **It's easy to set up and dismantle.** It only took me 5 minutes or less to scatter the cones around. The hardest thing was to create a "random" pattern that doesn't look like a race course, but is still easily negotiable. Picking up the cones at the end of the day took only another 5 minutes.

2. **An inviting sign is needed.** People are so used to all gates set up at ski areas being reserved for a group, that they initially avoided the cones. I stood at the top of the maze for a while, telling people that they can try going through; that it's open to everyone. A sign at the top,

inviting people in, would have been helpful.

3. **This is not a race course, but a fun maze.** Some people were confused by the number of cones. Are these gates? Are these two parallel courses? Which way should one go? The answer is to find a different way to go through each time. Just have fun turning.

4. **Even some good skiers ran over the cones.** Surprisingly, even accomplished skiers bumped into the cones, or even fell while skiing through, even though the slope was wide open and easy, and the cones set far apart. This shows that we can all use some practice doing controlled turns. That's the whole point of using cones for greater safety.

5. People had fun.

Now we just need more similar fun stuff on more slopes at more ski areas.

