

Safety Powder Skiing - by Emilio Trampuz

Mastering ungroomed terrain gives us a feeling of freedom. No longer are you constrained to the groomed trails. You can ski anywhere!

But deep powder is a challenge. Here are some tips:

1. **Ski with a partner or two.** Keep an eye on each other. Even within the bounds of a ski area, ungroomed slopes are much less traveled. Fewer people to help.
2. **Stay away from roped off areas.** It's for a good reason. Lots of fresh powder can be very unstable until it settles (which could take days or weeks) or until ski patrol has done some blasting to purposefully cause unstable spots to avalanche.
3. **Attach powder chords** to your skis. You might not need them 90% of the time, but if you lose a ski in deep powder, it might take hours of digging to find it. Powder chords might make it easier to find your ski.
4. **Know where you are going.** Carry a map. Or go with a guide. Or both.
5. **The further out you go, the more equipment you will need.** A 2-way radio might be enough within a ski area, but out of bounds, you'll need an avalanche transceiver, an avalanche probe, and a shovel.

Safety Person of the Year Award

Each year, for the past several years, the **Far West Ski Association** awards a Safety Person of the Year award to someone who contributes to the safety of our sport. See more about the award at www.fwsa.org.

The sponsor of this Award is the **Aspen/Snowmass** ski resort, and the prize is a week at that fabulous ski mecca, consisting of 4 ski areas: Aspen Mt., Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk, and Snowmass. See more info about these resorts on our web site. Go to "**Ski Areas**", and then click on each individual one under Colorado.

At last year's FWSA Convention, the award went to **Emilio Trampuz**, for the various safety articles in the newsletter and on the web site, as well as for the ongoing promotion of the "Vision for Safer Skiing in the 21st Century" (see below).



Connie Hamlin and Mary Manning from Aspen/Snowmass, Emilio Trampuz, and Richard Lubin (FWSA VP Safety)

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

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:

**Plant some trees!**

Many slopes look like clear-cuts. This is both boring and dangerous, because it invites speeding.

A few well-spaced trees can be so much fun to turn around. A good example is the "Naked Lady" trail at Snowmass, which is not so naked!

This gives people something fun to do on the slopes, rather than just speed down.

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



Easy trees on the "Naked Lady" trail at Snowmass