
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

SAFETY THE FOCUS OF AVALANCHE AWARENESS DAYS

VICTORIA – Nineteen avalanche safety and education events will take place at various resorts and parks throughout British Columbia during Avalanche Awareness Days, Jan. 11-13, said John Les, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

“Each year, more and more people participate in winter recreation in B.C., and we all need to do all we can to be safe out there,” added Les. “Tragically, we’ve already seen six fatalities this season as a result of avalanches.”

On average, over the past decade in Canada, 14 people have been killed and 75 injured by avalanches each year.

Avalanche Awareness Days will take place this weekend at ski hills throughout B.C. including the North Shore, where Minister Les and AdventureSmart members will participate in avalanche safety demonstrations and winter outdoor safety clinics at Grouse Mountain. Visitors at the ski hill can join the minister and AdventureSmart members in the Dig to Win game, which teaches people how to use personal locator beacons.

AdventureSmart provides a broad range of programs that encourage safe participation in outdoor activities. The program is managed by the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) in partnership with the B.C. Search and Rescue Association and the National Search and Rescue Secretariat.

Following a review in 2003, the Province announced annual funding of \$125,000 in support of the new Canadian Avalanche Centre, which resulted in subsequent funding from Parks Canada, the Meteorological Service of Canada, the Province of Alberta and others. PEP works closely with the Canadian Avalanche Centre and the Canadian Avalanche Foundation in promoting safety programs.

For more information on Avalanche Awareness Days and other outdoor safety information, please visit www.adventuresmart.ca, www.pep.bc.ca, and www.avalanche.ca online.

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