



May 17, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NSP Battles Licensing Regulations in Idaho

Lakewood, Colo. – The National Ski Patrol (NSP) reports that recent proposed regulation in Idaho would require all ski patrollers to become licensed by the state Emergency Medical Services bureau. If enacted into law, it could have a dramatic impact on the ski industry and lead to a drastic decrease in the 1,000 Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC)-trained NSP patrollers in Idaho, who would be faced with having to undergo EMS licensing procedures.

"NSP OEC-trained patrollers have a history of providing exemplary first aid service on ski slopes throughout the country," said NSP Executive Director Tim White. "This is a classic case of creating state regulation where it is not needed."

The NSP's OEC program is a proven and effective course in emergency care on the slopes in variable weather conditions, and is promulgated as the standard of training by ski resorts throughout the nation, both for its efficacy and its cost-savings.

Beginning May 17, a series of 12 town hall meetings will be held over the course of five weeks, allowing the public to comment on the proposed regulations. The regulation could then be revised before being sent to the Idaho legislature for consideration in January 2011. If adapted, the regulations would go into effect in July 2011.

The NSP believes that the OEC program protects and promotes the ability of Idaho's ski industry to provide superior emergency first aid care at no cost to Idaho's skiers and snowboarders. Idaho ski area operators also oppose the proposed regulations.

About the National Ski Patrol

The National Ski Patrol is a Federally Chartered nonprofit membership association dedicated to serving the public and the mountain recreation industry. For 72 years, the NSP has been at the forefront of safety and emergency care education programs. The association's 27,000 members represent 98 percent of the nation's patrollers. For more information, access www.nsp.org.

For further comments or interviews regarding the NSP, OEC, and the issues in Idaho, please call NSP Communications Director Candace Horgan at (303) 988-1111, x2625.

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