

Back Country Safety Final Report
June 2, 2015

Alaska Avalanche Information Center
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June 2, 2015

Alaska Dept. of Public Safety
Alaska State Troopers
Attn: Lt. Steve Adams
5700 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507

Re: Backcountry Safety Education Contract

Report period: February 1, 2015 – May 31, 2015 – Alaska Avalanche Information Center

This is the final report for the Alaska Avalanche Information Center in partnership with the North America Outdoor Institute (NAOI) under Public Safety RFQ 12-134030 to provide the backcountry safety training programs to the general public in Anchorage, Juneau, Skagway, Haines, Valdez, Thompson Pass, Hatcher Pass, Summit Lake (Arctic Man,) and Tatitlik Alaska

	DATE	MAN HOURS	TYPE	LOCATION	# Attend
1	13-March	4	School	Elementary School Skagway	41
2	13-March	4	School	Middle / High Skagway	38
3	14-March	6	Community	Skagway Public Library, Glacier Smoothies	6
4	15-March	6	Community	Hatcher Pass Palmer/Wasilla	18
5	18-March	4	School	Juneau High School	76
6	18-March	4	Community	Haines - indoor (Library)	14
7	19-March	4	Community	Haines - outdoor (Field)	3
8	29-March	6	Community	Arctic Valley Ski Area Anchorage/MatSu	15
9	4-April	6	Community	Beacons & Eggs Valdez/Copper River	68
10	4/3-4/13/15	16	Community	Tailgate AK, Valdez/Copper River Basin	157
11	10-April	24	Community	Arctic Man Fairbanks, Delta, Ak. Range	150
12	18-April	8	Community	Eagle Crest Ski Area - Juneau/Southeast	32
13	28-April	2	School	Haines Middle School	15
14	28-April	2	School	Haines Elementary	16
15	28-April	2	School	Haines Elementary	19
16	28-April	2	School	Haines Middle School	14
17	30-April	2	School	Haines Middle School	27
18	30-April	2	School	Haines High School	50
19	30-April	2	School	Haines Elementary	14
20	1-May	4	School	Gilson Middle School – Valdez	137
21	22 – May	10	Community	Tatitlik	12
21		120			922



Total courses taught: 22; Total hours of training: 120; Total individuals served: 922

Media coverage provided by: Flyers, word-of mouth, 96.9 the Wolf, 105.5 Movin 105, KVAK Public Radio Valdez and KHNS Haines; editorial stories written by Debra McGhan were submitted to Frontiersman, Coast Magazine, Snowrider Magazine, Make-A-Scene (magazine,) Fairbanks News Miner, Sitka Herald, Juneau Empire, the AAIC Website, Blog, Facebook and Twitter. Press Releases were also sent out by the North America Outdoor Institute.

In addition to courses held, AAIC provided backcountry education and support information at international events held in the state including: Tailgate Alaska (estimated attendance 4,000); Arctic Man (estimated attendance 15,000); Mountain Man Hill Climb (estimated attendance 7,000.)

The AAIC provided weekly trail information reports on six (3) radio stations (Anchorage, Haines, Valdez) for a total of 18 weeks and support was also provided for avalanche forecast information and dissemination.

All of us affiliated with AAIC appreciate the opportunity to partner with the NAOI on behalf of the Alaska Dept. of Public Safety for this important public safety effort.

We strongly believe that more should be done to support Alaska Public Safety in providing public service programs that help to educate our citizens. While the cost of search and rescue missions continues to climb, the investment in prevention has remained stagnant or fallen off. We believe this must change. We are confident that if Alaska invests more dollars preemptively, we will not need to spend so much responding.

We also believe that issuing the contract to provide these programs in the fall, rather than waiting until early February when we are fully into our season, will allow a greater opportunity to effectively prepare, hire and train staff, secure and allocate resources, and promote the program to reach many more residents. If there is anything we can do to help ensure this contract is issued earlier in the season, please let us know. Our goal is to publish our calendar of available programs by early November to assist the public and schools in planning their personal training schedules.

This concludes the 2014-2015 winter education season. Everyone involved in this effort looks forward to the future as we work together to strengthen partnerships and continue growing and improving our outdoor safety education outreach programs.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need further information. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Debra McGhan
AAIC Executive Director



ADDENDUM TO REPORT

Following is a list of communities that requested programs we did not have resources to fulfill but hope to serve in the future. Service High, Hanshew Middle, King Career, South Anchorage, Wendler, Romig, Mirror, Chugiak, Hutchison, Cordova, Delta, Tok. In addition we had calls from several small communities and there were numerous other locations that did not know about the program, but have need that we would like to reach out to in the future.

With Alaska's numerous mountain ranges and so much winter in which to explore and play, making sure we do our very best to educate people about the potential dangers is imperative.

<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/us-avalanche-fatalities-rise>

<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/dec/29/local/la-me-avalanche-20121229>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/28/avalanches-deaths-on-the-rise_n_1307917.html

http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/weather/news/2008-01-24-avalanches-snow_N.htm

It is our goal to continue growing the pool of qualified educators to help expand the programs available for Alaskans across our state. We appreciate your help and support that will enable us to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,



Debra McGhan
AAIC Executive Director

ENC: Event details



Photos examples from programs delivered around the state. View more at alaskasnow.org

