



Winter Terrain Park Best Practices Criterion I: Management

I. Management

I.A. Lines of authority/responsibility

Criterion I.A: Best practice in winter terrain park management includes resorts identifying and documenting clear lines of authority and responsibility for the terrain park.

Rationale: An identified locus of core mission responsibility is an obvious and widely recognized principle of sound management. For the locus of responsibility to effect necessary and appropriate actions, it must also have the authority to act through staffing decisions, resource allocation, direction of operations. Documenting the lines of authority effectively communicates who is in charge of the terrain park to other managers and internal staff and demonstrates to third-parties that the criterion is satisfied.

Practical considerations: The expected practical impact is minimal. All resorts currently have a management structure in place; however the duties of the affected managers may be increased.

Criterion status: Approved February 16, 2012.

I.B. Staffing and Equipment

Criterion I.B.1: Best practice in winter terrain park management includes resorts documenting that there is sufficient staff and equipment to operate and maintain the winter terrain park.

Rationale: Sufficient staffing as defined in the resort's terrain park plan is required for ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the terrain park which is necessary for keeping the terrain park within design specifications. Documenting the staffing levels effectively communicates to management, internal staff and third-parties that the criterion is satisfied.

Practical considerations: The expected practical impact could be significant. Depending on current staffing levels, there may be a budgetary and training impact.

Criterion status: Approved February 16, 2012.

Criterion I.B.2: Best practice in winter terrain park management includes resorts documenting that all staff involved in the planning, design, construction, and operation of the terrain park have appropriate skills and/or training for their respective duties.

Rationale: Planning, designing, building, and maintaining a winter terrain park that conforms to best practices criteria requires that all those intimately involved have the requisite skills. For example, designers and/or third-party design consultants should be knowledgeable of technical terrain park design principles and best practices criteria for design. Documenting the training and/or relevant experience of those involved effectively communicates to management, internal staff and third-parties that the criterion is satisfied.

Practical considerations: Depending on current staffing levels, there may be a budgetary and training impact.

Criterion status: Approved February 16, 2012.

I.C. Operations documentation

Criterion I.C.1: Best practice in winter terrain park management includes creating a plan for the daily opening procedures for their terrain parks.

Rationale: Terrain park maintenance staff need to know in detail the opening procedures for the terrain parks under their care. Documenting the opening plan effectively communicates to management, internal staff and third-parties that the criterion is satisfied.

Practical considerations: The expected practical impact is minimal. Depending on current staffing levels, any new monitoring plan may create the need for more on-hill staff time.

Criterion status: Approved February 16, 2012.

Criterion I.C.2: Best practice in winter terrain park management includes resorts creating a periodic inspection and maintenance plan for the terrain park.

Rationale: Terrain park maintenance staff need to know in detail the maintenance plan for the terrain park features under their care. Documenting the maintenance plan effectively communicates to management, internal staff and third-parties that the criterion is satisfied.

Practical considerations: The expected practical impact is minimal. Depending on current staffing levels, any new monitoring plan may create the need for more on-hill staff time.

Criterion status: Approved February 16, 2012.

I.D. Incident response/reporting

Criterion I.D.1: Best practice in winter terrain park management includes resorts having a plan for response to incidents, including the creation and maintenance of records of each incident for subsequent internal review. For any incident or accident in the terrain park where there is a serious injury (requiring medical evacuation), the resort must have a detailed accident reporting system that includes at minimum statements and sketches by all witnesses and photographs of the feature involved (if any) and the area in which the accident occurred.

Rationale: Accidents are a fact of life. A resort implementing best practices plans to respond to and mitigate the effects of accidents. Documenting the accident response plan effectively communicates to management, internal staff and third-parties that the criterion is satisfied.

Practical considerations: The expected practical impact is minimal. It is expected that any resort having a ski patrol staff of sufficient numbers and trained in accident response with a detailed reporting system will have met this criterion.

Criterion status: Approved February 16, 2012.

Criterion I.D.2: Best practice in winter terrain park management includes resorts having sufficient trained staff to respond to incidents.

Rationale: A resort implementing best practices trains its staff to respond to incidents to minimize negative outcomes. Documenting the staff training effectively communicates to management, internal staff and third-parties that the criterion is satisfied.

Practical considerations: The expected practical impact is minimal. It is expected that any resort having a ski patrol staff of sufficient numbers and trained in accident response with a detailed reporting system will have met this criterion.

Criterion status: Approved February 16, 2012.

I.E. Education and Safety Awareness

Criterion I.E: Best practice in winter terrain park management includes resorts providing opportunities to educate their patrons as to the risks associated with use of terrain parks, appropriate behaviors, e.g. "Park Etiquette and Education Program for Skiers and Snowboarders" (PEEPS).

Rationale: Most accidents at ski resorts are due to patron decisions. However, sound decisions require timely and appropriate information as to the conditions, risks, and skill level needed to navigate the terrain park safely.

Practical considerations: The expected practical impact is minimal. Resorts already have a responsibility for signage and roping. There may be an impact of creating additional signage and roping.

Criterion status: Approved February 16, 2012.

I.F. Management review and feedback:

Criterion I.F: Best practice in winter terrain park management includes the resort manager reviewing the maintenance and safety record of the terrain park monthly and conducting and documenting an end-of-season review to develop plans for improvement.

Rationale: Best practices includes learning from mistakes and seeking constant improvement. Documenting the review of the maintenance and safety records by resort management effectively communicates to all managers, internal staff and third-parties that the criterion is satisfied.

Practical considerations: The expected practical impact is minimal. Most resorts already conduct reviews. Depending on current practice, there may be an additional report required.

Criterion status: Approved February 16, 2012.