



## Continued Professional Development for Avalanche Workers

### “New Tricks for Old Dogs.”

The CPD for Avalanche Workers course is a 4-day forum where operation managers, forecasters, team leaders, educators, and guides interact and exchange ideas with others in the industry. This program targets career professionals motivated to continue the learning process.

This course focuses on risk management and best practices in avalanche operations. It considers both common ground and diversity in ski area programs, catski and heliski operations, ski touring operations, transportation and industry control operations, and public education and forecasting centers. Facilitators and participants both contribute to round table exercises focussed on strategies and tools that improve the daily avalanche forecast, mitigate the hazard, communicate risk, and improve worker and public safety. In contrast to annual avalanche seminars and symposiums, this course allocates the time and expert facilitators to encourage problem solving and integrate change, when appropriate, into the avalanche and guiding workplace.

Each CPD program is topically structured to meet current participant and industry inquiry. Past topics include:

1. Risk and The Avalanche Workplace: Working Alone. Current issues, OSHA, comparative industry policy. Managing the culture of risk tolerance in your operation. Forecasting for natural events and managing the public and facilities as an element at risk.
2. The “Safety Meeting”: Trends, checklists, communication and documentation. How teams discuss instability, hazard and risk.
3. Risk Communication Between Neighboring Operations.
4. The Weight of Evidence: craftsmanship and verification with field observations.
5. SWAG (2010) and ICSSG 2009—ensuring your observers and documentation are at the national standard.
6. Combating The Human Factor: bias and individual and small team decision making.
7. Warming and Avalanche Release. Current research and practical application.
8. Managing Persistent Deep Slab Problems.
9. Research: recent observations of snow metamorphism and microstructure.
10. Avalanche Balloon Packs: Applied research, common practice, and cost/benefit analysis.
11. Facilitating Change In The Workplace: managing expectations and challenges.

**Past facilitators include:** Avalanche educators Ethan Greene, PhD, Boulder, CO; Ian McCammon, PhD, Salt Lake City, UT; Colin Zacharias, Tofino, BC; and Joe Royer, LaMoille, NV.

**Course Location:** Crested Butte, Colorado, hosted by C.S. Irwin Catskiing: <http://winter.irwincolorado.com>

**Course Dates:** February 17-20, 2014

**Course Cost:** \$1200

**Facilitators:**

Colin Zacharias, Tofino, BC – IFMGA – CAA ITP Instructor

Ethan Greene, Leadville, CO - CAIC

Brian Lazar, Boulder, CO - CAIC

**Register online:** <http://avtraining.org/continued-professional-development-for-avalanche-forecasters/>

**For More Information:** AIARE Program Director, Ben Pritchett, [benp@avtraining.org](mailto:benp@avtraining.org) (970) 209-7594