

## **Avalanche Hazard Investigations, Zoning, and Ordinances, Utah, Part 2**

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The Wasatch Mountains of Utah are known as home to the 2002 Winter Olympics as well as having an abundance of avalanche history and avalanche hazard terrain that threatens ski areas, highways, and backcountry. Avalanche professionals historically have been drawn to and/or produced from this region resulting in an abundance of publications and research. Still, the subject of avalanche zoning continues to be neglected by developers and governmental approval agencies at communities encroaching on the foothills of the Bonneville Shoreline into avalanche terrain not previously developed. The first and only avalanche hazard ordinance adopted by a county (Scroggin/Batatian, ISSW 2004) is now being challenged by developers. While geologists continue to improve natural hazards mapping for earthquakes, landslides, and debris flows, avalanche hazards have not been included. This presentation will present a slide show and computer terrain analysis of recent large avalanches that have dropped over 5000 vertical feet to existing and proposed development areas as well as inspire a discussion on ways to address the problem both physically and politically. Potential solutions and ways to identify how to assist developers and governmental agencies will be presented.