

AlaskaSnow: A Practitioners' Exchange Forum

Peter E. Carter¹ Sarah A. Carter²

1 State of Alaska Department of Transportation, Valdez, AK, USA; 2 Private Practice, Valdez, AK, USA

This poster presentation describes the enhancement of AlaskaSnow.org, the Valdez Chugach Region network of avalanche professionals, with a practitioners exchange forum.

The program goals include improving:

- 1) Safety for various commercial operations and the state Department of Transportation via a standardized data collection and sharing system, and
- 2) The quality and range of data collection, and the ability to analyze data for current and historical purposes.

Prior attempts at data sharing faced development, setup and training obstacles. Thus, it was determined that an on-demand commercial system could achieve these goals.

The system was implemented and available from the AlaskaSnow site in less than a few hours. Members of the community were impressed with the immediacy, completeness, and clear presentation of the data. Practitioners were able to enter and validate their data quickly and efficiently. Ease of use allowed data recorders and observers more time to evaluate their data and to generate reports and charts for internal and public use.

Future directions include development of a pure SWAG version and enhanced forecasting and advisory tools.