

The BIG loss: JHSP's avalanche mitigation fatality and the resulting program changes

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On January 5th, 2010, veteran patrolman Mark Wolling, known throughout the world as BIG WALLY triggered an avalanche that killed him during avalanche reduction efforts at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. This presentation will explain the snowpack and event history as well a brief synopsis of the actual avalanche and rescue efforts. Following the accident extensive reviews of operational procedures and equipment, including airbags and transceivers, were conducted. These findings and the changes to the program that are being implemented for the 2010-2011 season will be the focus of the presentation.