

**BACKCOUNTRY SKIER ATTITUDES AND THE  
UTAU AVALANCHE FORECAST CENTER**

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Surveys of backcountry users in the LAFC forecast area show changes in attitudes towards avalanche danger and personnel user responsibility. Surveys conducted since 1976 show user increases of 25% per year. During this period avalanche phone information calls have increased 6 times to a present call rate of 34,000 per year in the Salt Lake area. Awareness of the avalanche information number has changed from 70% who were unaware of the number in 1976 to 77% aware in 1982. While the awareness of the information number has increased, only 58% called the information number. Perception of the avalanche hazard by the public, trained mountain observers, and the UAFC is examined.