

"A SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE MASTER SNOW STAKE"

**A POSTER EXHIBIT by: DENNY HOGAN, Associate Forecaster &
DON BACHMAN, Lead Forecaster**

**Colorado Avalanche Information Center/ Colorado Department of
Transportation, Avalanche Hazard Reduction Program.**

P.O. Box 418

Silverton, CO. 81433

Office: (303) 387-5712

Fax: (303) 387-5756

ABSTRACT:

On November 1, 1992, the Silverton Forecast Office of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center, (CAIC), was established to provide daily avalanche condition evaluations, forecasts and recommendations for control and closure to the Colorado Department of Transportation, (CDOT), for the U.S. Highway #550, Red Mountain Pass corridor and Colo. Hwy 145, Lizard Head Pass, and County Rd. 110. This included over 50 miles of roadway for which weather observations and snow readings were made. Snowfall was measured by the forecasters at as many as ten sites along these highway corridors. Sites contained a master snowstake, 24-hour interval board and stormboard. What was needed was an easy to read total snowstake, that way plow-drivers as well as the forecasters could keep track of increasing snow depths. (Day or night the reflective numbers would show up using a spot-light.)

The 1992-93 winter was characterized by a series of storm systems which entered the San Juans on a southern fetch bringing mild temperatures and abundant moisture, as a result, five foot extensions were needed on our standard 10' master stakes! ... of course this winter we just made it to the seven foot mark... so it goes. These easy to read PVC stakes allowed us to take quick and accurate observations. This poster exhibit will use pictures and a display model to illustrate the stake. Handouts for the easy to build master stake will be available, along with a materials list and current prices.