Clinic Reminders

Clinic Topic: Lift Safety and Evacuation in Snowsports – Chris Cameron

1. Are there regulations surrounding stop gates for chairlifts?
   According to Brad Hawkins of the Winter Park Resort Lift Mechanic Department, Section 4.2.3.2 of the state regulations cites: “On lifts using chairs, an automatic stopping device beyond each unloading are shall be installed. The device shall automatically stop the aerial lift in the event a passenger rides beyond the intended point of unloading.” Hawkins says “It does not give a measurement for distance from bottom of chair seat to top of stop gate wand and the two critical things seem to be A) position the wand as close to the bottom of the chair as possible to be triggered by a variety of leg lengths or equipment below the seat, and B) ensure the wand is long enough to be triggered by someone in any of the seats, including the outer most seat.

2. Where can gondola loading carts for sit skis be purchased?
   Larger Carts:
   
   Slimmer carts: We have not received a reply from the group that built these carts indicating they are still in existence or will share the cart plans. We will share information updates as received.

3. Are there special devices for sit skiers to use when accessing surface lifts such as T-bars and platter lifts?
   Click here to see what is offered by Tessier: Tessier (adaptiveskiing.net)
4. Why do sit skis sometimes spin when they are lowered from a lift?
   It is believed that sit skis sometimes spin during lift evacuation because of the way ropes are coiled and use of certain belay devices. A second rope may be used and help mitigate this issue.

5. What devices can be used to evacuate sit skis from an aerial lift?
   Sit skis are fitted with a belay system for evacuation that is generally located at a center balance point of the sit ski usually between the legs close to the body. Alternatively, a sling, or set of slings, can be created from webbing or a prefabricated sling may be used under the sit ski seat, anchored to the sit ski frame. The guest may be fitted with a chest sling attached to the evacuation rope as a back-up device.

   We have not received a response about the manufacturer or possibility of purchase of the large orange mono ski slings used in one evacuation video. WE will share information updates as received.

6. Do I need to contact a Resort before going there to let them know I need special accommodations if I’m riding a lift that needs to be evacuated?
   Resorts operating in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other governing entity requirements should be aware of the potential to accommodate guests with a variety of needs.

7. Is training required for the chairlift evacuation of guests using adaptive equipment?
   Absolutely. ANSI and CPTSB requires patrol to be trained for adaptive guests. Patrol is required to evac adaptive guests in challenging spans of new lifts before the lift is certified.

8. Should mono skiers wear chest harnesses while skiing?
   These types of harnesses may not be needed unless the mono skier is subject to seizures or other disorders that could cause them to accidentally come out of their sit ski seat and the chairlift chair. Typically, sit skiers in adaptive lessons use a seat retention strap while riding chairlifts. This type of device can be used by sit skiers whether in a lesson or not.

9. Does patrol give CPR on a chairlift?
   Patrol assesses situations requiring medical care and sets a plan to provide the safest and fastest solution possible for the situation. Most likely, a chairlift will keep running to get the guest requiring medical attention to the top of the lift where the person can be met by Patrol members to receive needed care. Enter the Resort Patrol phone number in your mobile phone for quick contact in case you need help.