



DOSH Hazard Awareness eBulletin #1HB2010

April 12, 2010

Attention Washington State Ski Areas and Resorts:

The death of a ski patroller in Wyoming last year has brought new focus to use of helmets for head injury prevention among employees who must take to the slopes to accomplish their daily work, often in rugged backcountry locations. Such employees must perform a variety of work activities; sometimes under adverse conditions that could lead to elevated risk for serious head injuries.

Employers in Washington State are required to take steps to make sure that hazards are evaluated and, when indicated, make sure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as ski helmets, are selected and provided. Employers must also train employees on the capabilities and limitations of their PPE, and other information to make sure use is as effective as possible.

Visit [DOSH's Safety webpage](#) to find worksite rules that specifically apply to [Ski Facilities](#). In addition, you'll need to follow the assessment, selection, fitting, training, use, and other applicable requirements found in the [general PPE rules](#).

For other information that addresses ski helmet selection and use, visit [the National Ski Patrol's helmet safety webpage](#).

Please share this work place safety message with others in your industry and safety network.

If you have questions or comments about this eBulletin, please contact Nichole Rose at rose235@lni.wa.gov.

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This bulletin was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees to potential hazards associated with work activities. This is not a rule and creates no new legal obligations. The information provided includes suggested guidance on how to avoid workplace injuries. DOSH recommends you also check the related rules for additional requirements.

Get another copy of this document and find other resources for preventing workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses on our web site: www.LNI.wa.gov/Safety