
WNY HFES MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT 5:30-7:30pm October 2, 2012

A Meeting of the Western New York Chapter of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society



Jumping Features at Ski Resorts: Good Risk Management or Not?

Jasper Shealy, PhD, CPE
Professor Emeritus, Rochester Institute of Technology and GEAR

Location

RIT Building 9 (Gleason) Room 3129. See <http://maps.rit.edu/> for details.

Abstract

Injuries associated with jumping at ski resorts may result in catastrophic if not fatal consequences. The concentration of designed jumping features within a segregated part of the resort, typically known as a terrain park, should naturally result in most jumping injuries taking place within the confines of the terrain park. This creation of places where jumping is permissible also most likely results in an increase in the absolute amount of jumping. **The unanswered question is what effect does this have in an overall sense in terms of injuries, injury severity, as well as catastrophic and fatal injury at a national level?** Dr. Shealy and his co-researchers were able to draw conclusions about this question by examining national data concerning resort visits, fatalities and catastrophic injuries since 1990. He will describe how this data was collected and the results of their analysis of it as well as their conclusions.

Bio

Dr. Shealy has a long career in ski injury research that began with his Master's and Doctoral research while in graduate school in the late 1960's and early 1970's and continues to the present. For many years he has been a member of the International Society for Skiing Safety (ISSS) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and has served in many leadership capacities for those organizations. For example, he is currently a member of the Board of Directors of ISSS and is co-editor for the ASTM STP series on Ski Trauma and Safety. He also serves as a technical delegate for the U.S. at ISO meetings on matters relating to ski and snowboard issues. He is the chair of the Statistics subcommittee and past chair of the Ski Boot subcommittee.

Since 1978 he has been doing sponsored ski injury research and has authored or co-authored more than 100 technical papers dealing with various aspects of ski injury research, including overall trends, comparisons between skiing, snowboarding, and cross-country skiing, fatalities, ski boot design, specific injury mechanisms, etc. Currently he is a co-researcher of the ongoing prospective epidemiological case-control study of skiing and snowboarding injuries at the Sugarbush Resort in Vermont.

Dr Shealy is Professor Emeritus of Engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). He served as an engineering professor at RIT from 1973 to 2001 and at various times he held positions as head of the Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering department, Assistant, Associate and Full Professor, as well as Director of the Human Performance Lab. He frequently serves as a consultant in the reconstruction of ski-injury accidents in the defense of claims against the ski industry.

Refreshments provided

COST: Members & Students – no cost; Non-members - \$5 payable at the door
RSVP: Contact Mark Johnson by October 1, MDJohnson62@gmail.com