

Snow Safety Center

The Netherlands

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What are we doing?

- Non profit
- Acquiring and sharing knowledge
- Partners: Skiing federation, Alpine Club, SNOWPROs.NL

Acquiring knowledge

- Visiting international congresses like ISSW, JOSMAR, Interski, etc.
- Working together with international contacts like Manuel Genswein and Werner Munter
- For instance: last years congress with Genswein, Munter and Michael Larcher

Sharing knowledge

- Presentations (2 hrs) in shops, ski schools, etc.
- Courses for freeriders
 - 2 days theory in NL, 4 days in the Alps
 - 3 levels in avalanche
 - 1 Mountaineering course
 - Pieperfest
- Courses and retraining for ski and snowboard instructors

Challenges

- No mountains
- No snow
- No lifts
- No snow culture!

But:

- 1 million skiers and snowboarders
- Among them a fair amount of freeriders and skitouring aficionados

Dutch opportunities

- Starting from scratch as an organisation. No rules, no traditions, no 'science'.
- No preliminary knowledge on the participant level. Tabula rasa.
- No false conceptions (dad's, granddad's, local newspapers, etc.)

USP's Snow Safety Center

- Courses in Dutch language and 1st level theory available throughout the entire country
- Professional level courses for non-professionals
- Aim: keeping it as simple as possible. What can we leave out? (skiing is no rocket science!)

What and when

- Starting with the freerider, instead of the snow!
- Do starters really need snow profiles?
 - If so: when is the best time in the programme?
- Do starters really need metamorphosis?
 - If so: when is the best time? For starters, or...?

What does the customer need?

- For example: working from trailmaps to alpine maps
- Attractive demo's: gloves, trampolines and cookies
- Good interactive modern 2011 study material

Good results

- ✓ We checked levels with guides who also do instructor courses with the alpine club: good
- ✓ We checked with participants who'd taken an 'Alpinkurs' in Austria before: good
- ✓ Interski 2011 on snow clinics

Now we want more!

- Setting up a Dutch ISIA approved backcountry module!
- We discussed this at Interski 2011 (key lecture and clinics by Snow Safety Center!)
- We went to see Aldo Berther, chef backcountry Swiss Snowsports in Sedrun

Why is this important?

- The essence of a backcountry module is understanding. This is much easier in the native tongue!
- We don't know in which country a Dutch instructor will work: understanding of Avy bulletins in more languages (FR, Ger) and styles is important!

Nice to know

- Dutch (speaking) UIAGM certified guides available!
- Highest level instructors = B

Questions, questions

- If not for SSC, who allows Dutch B level instructors into their avalanche course?
- What is the next step: a try-out with an ISIA observer?
- What can we bring to the ISIA community?

Thank you!

For your time and attention