

TO ALL BACKCOUNTRY TRAVELLERS

1: Backcountry is not a ski resort.

★Please note the following differences between backcountry and skiing.

- *Injuries and rescues on ski courses are generally free of charge, but backcountry rescues are NOT free and subject to charges.
- *Rescues in the ski slopes may be carried out by patrol team on duty in a responsive and timely manner, however in backcountry area, that is impossible.
- *Ski resorts carry out safety inspections, but the backcountry is an ungroomed wild snow area and you never know which kind of dangers may exist or occur.
- *In the event of a sudden change in weather conditions on the ski slopes, it might be relatively easier to take shelter in a restaurant or similar, but there is NO shelter in the backcountry.
- *Some ski resorts are maintained with snow grooming vehicles to make skiing easier, but snow conditions can vary greatly in the backcountry due to weather conditions and other factors.
- *In ski resorts, hazardous areas are marked, but not in the backcountry.

2: Tips for backcountry safety

★To enjoy the backcountry safely, you need skill, knowledge, and experience.

*Submit a mountain climbing report for backcountry ski. To submit the report, use the website of the nearest police station or search for 'mountaineering report'.

(Climbing reports are not only for the police. It may be useful to keep it on the dashboard of your family member or car.)

- *Carry the necessary equipment. (beacon, rope, shovel, and headlamp are obvious equipment)
- *The most common type of backcountry distress is getting lost. To avoid getting lost, make sure you have a GPS or similar device.
- *Equipment should not only be prepared, but also mastered in its use.
- *Going it alone tends to be more risky. It is recommended to work with others who have more skills, knowledge and experience.
- *Check the weather forecast before action and ask your local ski patrol about past weather and conditions before planning your action.
- *Make sure that the plan of action is accurately entered in the mountain climbing report and, wherever possible, remember to describe escape routes, spare food, etc.
- *Use your knowledge, experience and the terrain to your advantage and try to take action to reduce the various risks.
- *It is recommended to bring spare batteries, e.g. for mobile phones.
- *We recommend acquiring the knowledge and skills to bivouac.
- *If a situation arises that you cannot handle on your own call for help (110) as soon as possible.
- *In the backcountry, any action that seems 'more prudent' than you feel is safe.