



Tukino Skifield - Risk Management Strategy.

INTRODUCTION

The Tukino Ski Area is situated on the eastern slopes of Mt Ruapehu, in the central North Island. Mt Ruapehu is the largest of the three volcanoes in the Tongariro National Park.

The skifield terrain consists of large lava flows forming bluffs and scree slopes. The surface is extremely rugged and vegetation is sparse.

The Tukino Ski Area is operated by the Tukino Mountain Clubs Association Inc. (TMCA). TMCA holds a Concession Document (Licence) issued by the Department of Conservation for the operation of the Tukino Ski Area. Each of the resident ski clubs at Tukino also have a separate Concession Document (Licence) issued by the Department of Conservation for operating their ski lodges at Tukino.

The Tukino Ski Area and ski clubs are entirely within Tongariro National Park and are therefore subject to the provisions of the National Park Act 1980 and the Conservation Act 1987. TMCA and the ski clubs also comply with the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. The ski club accommodation buildings at Tukino are also required to hold a current Building Warrant Of Fitness (BWOFF). This certificate is on display in each of the ski lodges.

The Tukino Ski Area Management Safety Strategy (SAMSS) document contains the detailed safety procedures relating to the operation of the Tukino Ski Area. This document is audited by industry accredited auditors. The ski lifts at Tukino are operated in accordance with the Approved Code of Practice for Passenger Ropeways in New Zealand.

“The Tukino Mountain Clubs Association Inc. is committed to provide a full range of Ski Area Safety Services within the Tukino Ski Area boundary”.

TMCA is also committed to the protection of its customers from accident, injury or damage.

TMCA is aware of the need to provide its customers with a safe and healthy place in which to enjoy recreation time. To this end, suitable staff training is given to employees who will encounter hazards in the course of their work and TMCA takes all practicable steps to eliminate, isolate or minimise hazards.

Safety Services on the Tukino Ski Area Include:

Industry standard Snow Safety Program including avalanche mitigation
Terrain hazard strategies
Skifield slope management
First Aid and Rescue Services (Ski Patrol)
Backcountry Avalanche Advisory
Eruption and Lahar hazard management
Management of the Tukino Access Road.
Procedures for the handling of any other emergencies at Tukino.

PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION

There are several different forms of information available to the public regarding the ski area operation:

Mountain Weather Conditions and the Tukino Ski Field Operational Status.

Snow and weather reports are published on our website **www.tukino.org**

Broadcast on local radio stations **Peak FM** and **Ski FM**

Available on our **SnowPhone 06- 825 8111**

Available by phoning the **Tukino Skifield** on **06-387 6294**

On display in the **Tukino Ticket Office / Cafe.**

This information is available from 7:00am daily

The weather on Mt Ruapehu is sometimes extreme and can change in a very short space of time. Always have adequate clothes available for ALL conditions.

Please familiarise yourself with the current conditions before starting your day on the ski field.

Medium Range Weather Forecast.

Available on the MetService website <http://metservice.com/skifields/tukino/>

Backcountry Avalanche Forecast.

These are commissioned by the Department of Conservation and can be accessed via the internet at www.avalanche.net.nz.

The current Backcountry Avalanche Advisory is also displayed on the sign outside the Tukino Ticket Office / Cafe.

AVALANCHE MONITORING AND MITIGATION

The Tukino Ski Patrol monitors the weather and snow conditions at Tukino and operates a comprehensive industry standard Snow Safety Programme that includes avalanche hazard mitigation and control. Areas of the skifield can be closed due to any avalanche danger.

The avalanche control programme does not operate out of ski area operating hours; therefore extreme caution must be taken if you are moving around the mountain at these times.

Always respect closed signs, roped off and restricted areas and follow the instructions of ski patrol at all times.

ACCIDENT REPORTING

If you are at the scene of an accident you should:

Ensure that the accident is reported to ski patrol. Ski patrollers can be identified by their red and black jackets marked with white reflective crosses. Other staff members can contact them if necessary.

If possible, cross a pair of skis above the site of the accident.

Remain at the accident site until ski patrol arrives.

FIRE

All buildings on Mt Ruapehu are required to meet standards as outlined in the Building Act 1992. They are also required to meet standards outlined in the Tongariro National Park Building Code. All buildings at Tukino are facilitated with fire extinguishers.

The resident ski clubs at Tukino all have automatic fire alarm systems (heat and smoke detection) installed which will activate in the event of a fire.

On arrival, Safety Briefings will be given to all persons staying in any of the ski lodges at Tukino.

LAHAR / ERUPTION AWARENESS

The Tukino Ski Area is situated on the slopes of Mt Ruapehu, which is an active volcano. There has been volcanic activity as recently as 1995 and 1996, which came in the form of eruptions, lahars and ash fall. A lahar event is a stream of mud, rocks and water that is ejected from the mountain and proceeds down the mountain following valley floors at a speed of around 60 to 90 kilometres per hour.

There are no known lahar paths going through the Tukino Ski Area.

Recent lahar events have run down the Whangaehu Gorge (located next to the lower slopes of the Whangaehu Tow) on the Tukino Ski Area. These lahars offer no danger to users of the Tukino Ski Area. However as a lahar may be a precursor to an eruption of Mt Ruapehu, the safety plan for an eruption should be followed in the event of any lahar flowing down the Whangaehu Gorge..

The safety plan for **any** lahar or eruption event on **Mt Ruapehu** is as follows:

Lift attendants will immediately stop loading passengers onto the lifts.

All persons will be asked to leave the skifield immediately and move back to the Assembly Point at the Tukino Ticket Office / Cafe. Ski Patrol will carry out a Sweep of the skifield clearing it of all persons.

All buildings are considered to be in safe zones so all those people in buildings should remain indoors. Follow all instructions given by Ski Patrol and other Tukino Ski Area staff.

USEFULL CONTACTS

General Enquiries - 0800 TUKINO (0800 885 466)

SnowPhone – 06 825 8111

Tukino Skifield – 06 387 6294

Club Lodges - 06 825 8118

Medical / Accident Emergencies - Contact Ski Patrol or other skifield staff.

Tukino Skifield Website - www.tukino.org

Please do NOT independently contact the Emergency Services in the event of any emergency at Tukino. The Tukino Skifield staff are fully trained in managing this type of emergency.

This document has been prepared by the Tukino Mountain Clubs Association Inc. to assist persons involved with the organisation of (especially) school groups wishing to organise group visits to the Tukino Skifield.

Should you require further safety information relating to you visit to Tukino, please contact:

Tukino Safety Services Manager

Post: P O Box 1945, Taupo 3351

Phone: 0800-TUKINO, 0800- 885 466

Email: TMCA@tukino.org

A copy of this document is also available on our website:

<https://tukino.org/school-group-packages>