



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Ski Lifts Advisory Council

Monday, April 7, 2025

Minutes of the Ski Lifts Advisory Council meeting for the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at **2:00 p.m.** on Monday, April 7, 2025

Present	
Kevin Nichol, Chair	Tom Cavers
Dave Mathewson	Murray Frankcom
Christine Simpson	Sarah Kenney
John Ball	Rod Sheridan
Brian Edwards	Mark Rutherford
TSSA	
Alexandra Campbell	AJ Kadirgamar
Craig Durnan	Kristian Kennedy
Iuliana Afanase	Cy Gray
	Joelle Javier
Regrets	
Ward Bond	Candice Micucci

Action Items

Action: D. McLellan updated that now that the season is over there will be opportunities to connect with D. Mathewson to address the action item about checklists.

1. Constitution of Meeting

1.1. Safety Moment

M. Frankcom renewed his membership. For the Private Resorts vacancy, R. Sheridan recommended a candidate from a ski club. He will follow up with the Chair and TSSA.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1. The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. The council approved the minutes as presented.



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Ski Lifts Advisory Council

Monday, April 7, 2025

4. Chair's Report

The Chair provided an update on the ski season. The solid winter allowed for a good ski season, a welcome change after the previous few years. Will be having a joint conference with Quebec, Ontario and Atlantic Canada in May.

5. Standard Orders and Open Orders

C. Duman spoke about new standard ski orders and data on orders issued in FY24 to FY25.

6. Ski Incident Data-Sharing

C. Gray provided an update on the 2025 operating season incident data. He cautioned that it is raw data. Incidents are for the most part low severity. Young children are the highest number of ski incident victims. For detachable chair lifts C. Gray provided data on incidents by size and age.

In the second part of his presentation, C. Gray walked through regulation and code requirements for operators and attendants.

J. Ball asked for clarification that a second staff member is required where there is a conveyor. The code suggests it might be an attendant at the bottom. C. Gray confirmed it is a minimum requirement; staff would only be required at the top.

C. Gray detailed safety issues uncovered by TSSA, including operators leaving their station, a failure to follow procedures resulting in a chairlift fall, operator sharing duties, failure to follow work procedures, raising and lowering the safety bar, the ratio of instructors to young students, inadequate management supervision of operators and attendants, emergency evacuation procedures, backpacks, loud music affecting the ability to communicate and cannabis usage.

C. Gray spoke about technology to protect passengers and public education opportunities.

T. Cavers asked if the data was compared to historical data. C. Gray explained that TSSA changed operating systems, so he does not know how accurate other data is. On unseated incidents, he said they are the same this year as last year.



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J. Ball asked about aligning incidents to the skier visits. Appreciating it is not perfect, as far as an industry overview is concerned, aligning the two is helpful to help explain safety data. K. Nicholl stated that knowing how many passengers are taken up the hill and correlating them with incidents would be helpful. Council members also expressed interest in incident data broken down by snowboarders versus skiers, and kids with families, on school trips versus with friends if it's available.

T. Cavers commented that conveyors have eased access to skiing to younger age groups, which means some of the data covers children under four years old.

D. Mathewson asked for a copy of the presentation.

7. Falls from Lifts

K. Nichol spoke to the item, noting a working group was created to mitigate fall from lifts. TSSA is participating in the working group. T. Cavers added to the discussion, speaking about the experience at his site and lessons learned.

8. Issue Prioritization Update

8.1. Tom Cavers – Fall from carriers. C. Gray will share the remainder of the season's data so that this item can be closed.

8.2. Murray Frankcom – Cost recovery. He spoke to on December, 2023 inspection at a resort that led to orders. It took a lot of time and money to investigate it. He asked if the operator or manufacturer can seek compensation from TSSA as it is a rare and odd occurrence that resulting in significant cost. M. Rutherford added that the order should not have been an issue in the first place. AJ Kadirgamar noted there is no compensation mechanism at TSSA. However, if orders are not viewed as fair or applicable, there is recourse to escalate to supervisors and others at TSSA when necessary. He is only aware of only one ski lift complaint last year. M. Frankcom replied that it took several different people to get involved to conclude and at that point the costs were incurred. The resort and the manager incurred the cost for what should not have been an issue. He is looking for TSSA to respond.

C. Durnan noted that TSSA will investigate the issue to move forward. AJ Kadirgamar will take it back. He noted that there is the option of an Ombudsman submission too.



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Action: AJ Kadirgamar to follow up on the site in question.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:32 PM.