LOOKING TO EARN YOUR ALPINE STRIPES?

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Toronto, ON, December 21, 2007). The best way to begin your run-on-fun is getting to the top safely. If you plan on skiing or snowboarding at all this season, the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) wants to get you there in the safest way possible.

The anticipation of downhill can sometimes overshadow the importance of getting up the hill safely. Unsafe behaviour continues to account for a vast majority of ski lift incidents. Listen to the ski lift attendants and follow their helpful instructions. For parents, take an active role in making sure that your child is aware of and understands the importance of proper safety behaviour for all chair lifts, bar lifts and rope tows. For small children who can easily slip out of a chair lift, ride the lift with them.

Here are a number of crucial safety tips to follow. When getting on the lift, remember to LOOK, LOAD and LOWER:

LOOK
- Look for instructional signs before you prepare to load.
- Look and wait for your time to load.
- Look over your shoulder for the approaching chair.
- Secure loose hair and clothes, remove backpacks and headsets.

LOAD
- Bend your knees and prepare for the chair.
- If riding alone, sit in the middle of the chair.
- Hold poles in one hand and remove safety straps.
- Ask for help from the lift attendant if unsure.

LOWER
- Lower the safety bar as soon as your skis or snowboard leave the snow.
- Remain seated. Do not bounce or swing the chair.
- Single riders sit in the middle of the chair.

When getting off the lift, remember to LIFT, STAND and LEAVE:

LIFT
- Watch for the sign to raise the safety bar.
- Raise the safety bar when you reach the “Raise Bar Here” sign near the unloading area.
- Raise the tips on skis and boards when entering stations.

STAND
- Unload at designated areas only.
- Listen to and obey the operator’s instructions at all times.
LEAVE

- Clear the unloading area immediately.
- Ask the lift operator for help with dropped articles.

Last word? Being on the hill takes a lot of physical work. Skiing and boarding can be pretty tiring, especially towards the end of the day. That’s when concentration starts to slip and incidents can occur. If you or your child tires, it’s safer to pack it in. Hit the chalet, grab some cocoa and earn your stripes another day. The hill will still be there.

Show your friends and family how cool and safe this season can be. For more information on these and other safety topics, please visit www.safetyinfo.ca. Remember, safety is up to you.

About TSSA

TSSA is an innovative, self-funded non-government company focused on delivering public safety services. It provides not-for-profit regulatory safety services in industry sectors such as ski lifts, amusement devices, boilers and pressure vessels, elevating devices, fuels and equipment, operating engineers, and upholstered and stuffed articles. The organization’s vision is to be the world leader in public safety services.

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For more information on the Technical Standards and Safety Authority, please visit our website at www.tssa.org.