

**26 April 2011**

## **MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL AVALANCHE CONFERENCE TO GO AHEAD IN CHRISTCHURCH**

The New Zealand Mountain Safety Council is pleased to announce that the Southern Hemisphere Avalanche Conference will go ahead in Christchurch as planned on 10-12 June 2011.

Avalanche Programme Manager, Andrew Hobman who is based in Christchurch said:

“After the recent earthquake, we looked at moving the conference to another city but after careful consideration we have decided to keep it here in Christchurch. This is a good opportunity to support the City to get back on its feet again.”

The conference, which is the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, is the premier event for those involved in the avalanche sector. Expert practitioners from many organisations including ski fields, land owners, search and rescue organisations, government departments and outdoor adventure companies will all converge for 3 days of workshops and presentations on avalanche safety management.

As well as presentations there will be trade exhibitors, displays and demonstrations of the latest equipment, toys and techniques for avalanche safety management. Potential exhibitors or sponsors should contact programme Manager Andrew Hobman on 027 446 2626

Registration also includes an invitation to the Snow Ball Dinner on Saturday 11 June, which is the culmination of Chill Adventures’ ‘Pray for Snow’ festival which will be running during June.

“The conference venue, the Copthorne Hotel Commodore at Christchurch Airport was totally unaffected by the shake and has stayed open and operational throughout. It is situated very close to the airport, which was also unaffected and it’s a great location for the conference,” added Mr Hobman.

Registrations are now open and can be made online by visiting [www.mountainsafety.org.nz/conference](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz/conference) or call Richard Brodie at Mountain Safety Council on 04 385 7162.

**Ends: 287 words**

**AVAILABLE ON REQUEST:** Conference information brochure, conference poster, alpine and avalanche images.

**For further information regarding this press release or to arrange an interview please contact:**

**Andrew Hobman**

Programme Manager Alpine & Avalanche  
New Zealand Mountain Safety Council

**Cell:** 027 462 626

**Email:** andrew.hobman@mountainsafety.org.nz

**For general information regarding Mountain Safety Council and images please contact:**

**Andrea Hubbard**

Marketing & Communications Manager  
New Zealand Mountain Safety Council

**DDI:** 04 915 9286

**Email:** andrea.hubbard@mountainsafety.org.nz

**ABOUT THE NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL**

The New Zealand Mountain Safety Council was formed in 1965 in response to the increasing number of mountain, bush and firearms fatalities. Today, NZMSC is a national organisation responsible for safety in land based outdoor activities. We facilitate the setting of standards, offer training, distribute resources, lead public awareness campaigns and foster positive support in the community so that more people can discover and enjoy New Zealand's outdoors safely.

The Alpine and Avalanche Programme is one of the cornerstones of the organisation and MSC is active in promoting avalanche awareness and safety in New Zealand and has been offering avalanche training for more than 25 years.

**[www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz)**