

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation *by* *Sean Parnell, Governor*

WHEREAS, Alaska continues to rank number one in the nation for avalanche deaths per capita; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans of all ages regularly enjoy outdoor recreation and winter travel, including backcountry outings, mountain excursions, and the use of motorized vehicles such as snow machines, snow cats, airplanes, and helicopters; and

WHEREAS, winter outdoor recreation in Alaska attracts thousands of individuals every year; and

WHEREAS, there are avalanche slide zones throughout all of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, 90 percent of avalanche fatalities occur in slides that were triggered by the victim, or a member of their party; and

WHEREAS, winter recreation cannot be safely enjoyed without avalanche education, preparation, and awareness; and

WHEREAS, from seasoned outdoor enthusiasts to highway motorists, all of us in Alaska benefit from avalanche education, and should take advantage of information available through courses, tutorials, and online guides; and

WHEREAS; increasing awareness through education programs on avalanche safety and smart winter outdoor travel will help us end avalanche-related accidents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim November 2009 as:

Avalanche Awareness Education Month

in Alaska, and encourage all citizens to become more educated about avalanches and safe winter recreation.

Dated: November 4, 2009

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Parnell".

Sean Parnell, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.