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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**GOVERNOR'S SAFETY & HEALTH SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
**Alaska Avalanche Information Center Recognized for Avalanche Forecasting and Education**

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The Alaska Avalanche Information Center, a not-for-profit organization operated by a team of dedicated volunteers, is proud to announce their selection for a 2014 Alaska Governor's Safety and Health Special Achievement award for their work in providing snow forecasting and avalanche education for the general public. This is the 2nd time in AAIC's 6-year history they have been recognized for their dedication and hard work in the field of snow safety. The award will be presented on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> during the 33rd annual Alaska Governor's Safety & Health Conference held in Anchorage at the Dena'ina Convention Center.

The State of Alaska does not operate or maintain a snow forecast center and instead relies on volunteers and non-profit organizations like AAIC to fill this critical need. Over the past six years AAIC has been working to establish a network of Alaska Snow Forecast Centers around Alaska in their effort to provide relevant, critical information for the general public regarding snow and avalanche conditions.

AAIC currently has report centers for five highly accessed avalanche prone areas of the state including: Anchorage, Cordova, Haines, Hatcher Pass, and Valdez. They also post links with forecasts to support the US Forest Service Chugach Avalanche Information Center and the City of Juneau. This information can be accessed at [www.alaskasnow.org](http://www.alaskasnow.org).

The report bulletins provided by the AAIC snow forecasting professionals make it safer for those working, traveling or recreating in mountainous regions. Individuals are now able to access these areas armed with relevant, vital information about current snow and weather conditions to help them make more informed decisions on the best times and places to travel. This data is critical in helping to reduce avalanche related injuries and deaths.

In addition, AAIC encourages the general public to submit observations from their travels in the field to further expand the safety net of information.

If you would like to learn more or help with this grass-roots effort, please contact [pcarter@alaskasnow.org](mailto:pcarter@alaskasnow.org)

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