

*JAN 18, 2009*  
**Backcountry Access on Chicago Ridge...**

While we all enjoy the “untracked experience”, public access to Chicago Ridge is becoming a more frequent, and frankly a problematic event. Here are some notes for employees or guests wanting to access Chicago Ridge:

**Some things to consider:**

- **Chicago Ridge is a BACKCOUNTRY area, before leaving the gate, you MUST have:**
  1. **An avalanche transceiver**
  2. **An avalanche probe**
  3. **An avalanche shovel**
  4. **The knowledge and skill to use the above!**
- **It is strongly encouraged that you ski with a partner. This will aid you in the event of an avalanche or injury.**
- **Avalanches and other hazards DO EXIST beyond the gate.**
- **Backcountry rescue is the responsibility of the County Sheriff, NOT Chicago Ridge’s guides. Minimum response time could be an hour or more!**
- **EXPLOSIVES MAY BE IN USE AT ANY TIME – AND WITHOUT WARNING! The use of explosives on Chicago Ridge does not guarantee your avalanche safety. Control routes are conducted to protect the guided group, not the public.**

**If you decide to leave the boundary - do the following:**

1. **Check in with the Ski Patrol or Chicago Ridge staff to get the latest info on snow and avalanche conditions. LET THEM KNOW OF YOUR PLANNED TRAVEL ROUTES.**
2. **There is only ONE legal way to access the backcountry at Chicago Ridge – the marked access gate located at the bottom of the Piney Basin Triple Chair. Leaving the boundary at the cat access roads is illegal – our staff will contact you.**

**If you leave the boundary illegally:**

Colorado law states that anyone leaving a marked or roped ski area boundary can be fined \$1000 per person in addition to being sentenced up to five nights in jail. Persons accessing Chicago Ridge illegally will be contacted and the Sheriff will be notified. **This will also result in a loss of ticket or season pass privileges.**

Persons leaving the boundary cannot return to use the lift accessed area. You are now considered a backcountry skier and **MUST HIKE OUT!**