

Safety, Health & Fitness—

Family Of Injured Skier Awarded \$8.3 Million

A jury awarded \$8.3 million in damages to a Lynchburg, VA, man whose daughter was injured when she skied into a snow-grooming machine at Wintergreen Resort, VA. Jessica Grigg, who was 17 at the time of the accident in January 2003, suffered permanent brain damage. Her father, Milton Grigg, said after Friday's trial that justice was served by the jury's verdict. Wintergreen attorney Christopher Spencer said the verdict was not supported by the evidence, but he was not surprised that the jurors wanted to help the Griggs.

Little Cottonwood Avalanche Concerns

The road leading to Utah's Alta and Snowbird ski resorts is the most avalanche-prone in North America, according to published reports. And while the two resorts might not seem to have much else in common, both want to remedy that problem. Last week, they called for a radical new approach in battling the avalanche hazards along Little Cottonwood Canyon Road - the only way to get in and out of the resorts in the winter.

Alta General Manager Onno Wieringa and Snowbird President Bob Bonar asked the Utah Transportation Commission to fund a study of alternatives for realigning a two-mile stretch in the middle of the canyon that has been particularly vulnerable to dangerous slides. An early conceptual proposal for a realigned road south of the existing highway takes it right to, and in one short stretch over, the border of the Lone Peak Wilderness area. As proposed, the new portion of the road also would run much closer to Little Cottonwood Creek, which could bring watershed issues into play. It would also be costly - between \$20 million and \$40 million, according to one estimate.

Alta Mayor Bill Levitt considers it a small price to pay to solve a continuing problem that causes considerable delays and expense, and could have tragic consequences if it is not addressed.