

## Safety

## Lower the Bar - For Safety - by Emilio Trampuz

## Safety



I know at least two people who have fallen off a chairlift. I admit, I am one of them. I won't mention the other guy's name. Fortunately for both of us, we slid off the chair before it left the loading station. What would happen if you slide off of a chair up in the air?

People these days appear to be more concerned with safety, at least judging by the number of helmets being purchased. But, does a helmet lull us into believing we don't need to worry about safety any more?

Observe people riding a chairlift. Hardly anybody puts the safety bar down. If they do, they say it's just to rest their weary legs. Hello!!! You are putting your life on the line if you don't lower the safety bar!

What if you accidentally drop something and make a sudden move to catch it? What if you just lean forward a bit too far to talk to someone on the other end of the chair? What about those days when the chair is wet and slick, or even icy? What if someone next to you slips and grabs you in panic? What if the chair starts swinging or bouncing?

Many people feel safety bars are just for kids. We keep the bar up out of some foolish pride, as if we adults are not subject to gravity. Is it worth risking your life pretending you are above the laws of nature?

Some of us may be simply too timid to ask for the bar to be lowered into position. We give in to the macho type sitting next to us. Don't.

Be wise. Be safe. Swallow your pride. Overcome your timidity. Lower the bar yourself. If you encounter resistance from others, demand it. You might be saving their lives too.

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## Turning Skills -- Vision of Skiing in the 21st Century

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Building up on the idea of a new vision for skiing in the 21st century, started in the July/August 2005 issue of "Lift Lines", resorts could make the slopes **safer** by providing more opportunities for us to practice **controlled turning**, by simply setting up a variety of **fun obstacles** on the slopes. This would not only make the slopes more **fun**, but would also **slow traffic down**, make the slopes **safer**, and lift lines **shorter**.

Urge ski areas to implement this idea. Here's just one of the ways:



### Plant some trees!

Many slopes look like clear-cuts. This is boring and dangerous, because it invites speeding.

A few well-spaced trees can be so much fun to turn around. Vail has done something like this on the Cloud 9 trail in the Blue Sky Basin.

This photo is from Mt. Bachelor. Notice the multitude of ski tracks. Lots of people enjoyed this glade!



For more ideas, and the whole vision, see our web site at: [www.mthigh.org/Vision.htm](http://www.mthigh.org/Vision.htm).