

## Responsibility Code # 6

**OBSERVE ALL POSTED SIGNS AND WARNINGS. KEEP OFF CLOSED TRAILS AND CLOSED AREAS.**

Mt Hood Meadows uses a variety of orange ropes, signs and other markings for hazards, boundaries and closures. These signs and warnings reinforce aspects of the responsibility code that require each skier or rider to remain aware of their surroundings; ready to encounter hazards and avoid them. "TRAILS MERGING," "TRAILS CROSSING," and "LOOK" signs are all reminders of basic duties to avoid collisions. When skiing or riding we should be looking around and ready for intersections regardless of whether there is signage at that location or not.

MHM uses "SLOW" signs in some beginner areas, busy intersections and at chairlift bases. These Slow Zones are clearly marked on the Trail Map. SLOW signs do create additional duties above and beyond skiing in control and avoiding collisions. In Slow Zones, we ask that all guests make some turns to reduce their speed and demonstrate control. In addition to not straightlining through Slow Zones, we ask guests to go with the flow of traffic. Reduce speed and give extra space to avoid even near-collisions in these areas.

Hosts and Patrol often maintain a presence in Slow Zones and may use hand gestures to request slower speeds. Such a request to slow down is intended to be a safety reminder; a request that we all be active participants in a safe skiing and riding community.

You will know you've passed through the slow zone when you are no longer are facing "SLOW" signs. Do you still have questions? Ask any host or patroller. We'd love to demystify Slow Zones.

"CLOSED" signs create additional duties too. Oregon Skier Statutes, Hood River County Ordinances and the Responsibility Code agree clearly: Stay out. Stay off. Do not pass closed signs. These regulations place a duty on our guests to know what is open, what is closed, and then to stay out of the closed areas. Please ask if you ever have questions as to why something is closed.

Rope lines, oh, rope lines! There's so many of them! What do they all mean?

It's important to note that Orange Ropes can mean different things at different resorts. Here at Mt. Hood Meadows they are installed to communicate a single, simple message: Do not go this way. Do not duck this rope. Do not cross this rope. Do not jump over this rope. Do not cut this rope. Please, do not pass.

Some rope lines at MHM designate the ski area boundary. MHM has only 'closed boundaries.' This means our guests may not ride the chairlifts and exit the ski area. This closed boundary condition is a part of our Operating Permit with Forest Service on whose land we operate the ski area.

For example, MHM's south boundary, from the top of Vista Express to the bottom of Easy Rider, is roped and signed. Please don't cross this roped boundary. The backcountry adjacent to our southernmost trails can be accessed from the parking lot by travelling uphill outside the south boundary rope line.

Rope lines with "CLOSED" signs designate terrain within the resort boundary that is off-limits to skiing and riding. Permanently closed and roped areas may contain major hazards such as waterfalls, creek holes and cliffs, or they may separate heavy machinery and work areas from skiable slopes. Terrain can be temporarily closed due to a lack of snow, lack of safe egress in case of injury, or high avalanche danger. We do not close terrain if we do not have to. And when we must close terrain, we will enforce this closure for both guest and employee safety. Anyone entering closed terrain may lose their pass and any rescue performed within closed terrain or out-of-bounds may incur a rescue fee.

Furthermore, some rope lines are used to designate terrain for specialized use. Freestyle terrain parks and racing venues will be 'roped-off.' These parks and race courses will have rope-free entrances with informational signage and rope free exits as well.

Much of our expert terrain is behind ropes too. When Heather Canyon and the Private Reserve are open, this expert terrain must be accessed through open gates only. Please read the informational signs and be sure that the terrain is open and conditions are appropriate for you. We recommend skiing with a partner and carrying avalanche rescue gear.

Please follow these simple rules concerning posted signs and closures.

1. Don't cross rope lines. Ask us anytime if you want to know why a rope line exists and what's the story with the terrain on the other side.
2. Read warnings and expect both marked & unmarked obstacles.

You are responsible.