2026 COLORADO SNOW AND AVALANCHE WORKSHOP AGENDA

OCTOBER 16, 2026, 8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM MOUNTAIN TIME
RIVERWALK CENTER | BRECKENRIDGE, COLORADO

8:00	**DOORS OPEN**
8:30	**Welcome** - Ethan Greene, Director - Colorado Avalanche Information Center
8:35	**The Past, Present, and Future of the Highway Avalanche Program in Colorado** - Brian Gorsage, Avalanche Program Manager - Colorado Department of Transportation
9:00	**From UAS Snow Depth Measurements to Runout Probability: A Decision-Support Model Chain for Operational Avalanche Hazard Assessment** - Valerie Foley, Geospatial Data Specialist & Ryan Zarter, Northern Mountains Highway Forecaster - Colorado Avalanche Information Center
9:25	**UAS for Search and Rescue, An Avalanche Incident Case Study -** Austin Finnell & Drew Gibson - Summit County Rescue Group
9:50	**BREAK**
10:20	**Talk Less, Listen More: Psychological Safety and Candor in the Mountains** - Dr. Sara Boilen, Founder & Chief Psychologist - Sweetgrass Psychological Services
10:45	**Beyond Better Decisions: Managing Emergent Risk in Avalanche Terrain** - Ian McCammon - Ph.D. Retired
11:10	**Founding and Legacy of the Colorado Snow and Avalanche Workshop** - Knox Williams, Director (retired) - Colorado Avalanche Information Center
11:35	**An Update from the American Avalanche Association** - Jayne Thompson Nelson, Executive Director - American Avalanche Association

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11:45 - 1:15	**LUNCH**
1:15	**To Probe Or Not To Probe: Evaluating Fine Search Standards and the Role of Probing in Shallow Burial Professional Rescue Scenarios** - Benjamin Merkle, Ski Patrol - Copper Mountain Ski Patrol
1:40	**A Look at the D-Scale: Can We Be More Objective With Our Size Estimates? -** Erich Peitzsch, Research Physical Scientist - USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center
2:05	**Stability Changes After Weak Layer Collapse: Insights From An Unexpected Dataset** - Andrea Bruckmeier, Ph.D. Student - Montana State University
2:30	**BREAK**
3:00	**CAIC Updates for Winter 2026-2027** - Spencer Logan, Science and Operations Officer - Colorado Avalanche Information Center
3:25	**ENSO - What's So Super About It** - Greg Heavener, Warning Coordination Meteorologist - National Weather Service
3:50	**Closing** - Ethan Greene, Director - Colorado Avalanche Information Center
Social Hour at the Riverwalk Center - Beverages provided by Breckenridge Brewery 4:00 to 5:00	