

Protection, Injury Aid Offered at Iowa Ski Areas

Skiers at many of Iowa's ski facilities are provided the same safety protection and injury aid as those who travel to larger resort ski areas of the country.

James E. Hicks of Des Moines says some 33 trained members of the National Ski Patrol System (NSPS) serve

as safety patrolmen at such Iowa ski areas as Not-Ski-Run in Decorah, Holiday Mountain near Estherville, Winter Playland in Humboldt, Chestnut Mound in the Cedar Falls-Waterloo area and Ted Kalen's Ski Area near Grimes.

NSPS is a nonprofit or-

ganization that works closely with the American Red Cross, the National Safety Council and the United States Ski Association. Patrolmen receive no pay for their services and it is not required that a ski area provide patrolled facilities. Members, however, are often given free skiing opportunities at the areas they

serve, Hicks says.

Hicks gives three classifications of ski patrolmen — junior, basic and senior. Junior and basic patrolmen have met the same standards of skill with junior patrolmen being 15, 16 or 17 years old. Basic patrolmen are 18 or over. Senior patrolmen must meet higher testing stand-

ards, regardless of age.

Hicks, who is the ski patrol leader at Winter Playland and also ski patrol recruiting director for the entire state, says Steve Baehr, Scott McDonald and Steve Proctor, all of Des Moines and all students at Roosevelt High School, and Duaine Wulff of Fort Dodge are recent qualifiers for junior patrolmen.

In order to qualify, it was necessary for them to pass both the standard and the advanced American Red Cross First Aid courses. They included on-the-hill training and toboggan handling tests.

Hicks says the next NSPS test given for junior and basic patrolmen will be Feb. 23 at Holiday Mountain.