

## **Instructions for Using the Avalanche Weather Forecasting Data Form**

### **Pre-Forecast Preparation**

- For each pre-forecast indicator on the form, circle the appropriate value for your area. If little or no pre-forecast information is available, make avalanche potential “uncertain.”
- When completed, evaluate the ratings. Are there more in the greater, uncertain, or lesser potential columns?

### **Current Weather:**

Enter current weather information in the Current Weather column.

- Enter precipitation, wind, temperature, cloud cover data for the last 24 hours.
- Compare your data with the Weather Indicators in the Avalanche Weather Forecast Guide.
- For each weather parameter, determine its impact on avalanche potential. Put an “I” in the box if it’s increasing it, a “D” if it’s decreasing it, or an “N” if it’s not changing it.

### **Forecast Weather:**

Enter your forecast weather information under the Forecast columns (0-to-12 hr and 12-to-24 hr).

- Make 0-to-12 and 12-to-24 hour forecasts for each parameter, entering the data in each column of the Data Form.
- Create a combined 24-hour forecast from the 0-to-12 and 12-to-24 columns and fill in the Forecast Totals/Averages for the 24-hour forecast period.
- Compare your forecasts with the Weather Indicators in the Guide.
- For each weather parameter, determine its impact on avalanche potential. Mark “I” for increasing, “D” for decreasing, or “N” for no change in each box.

### **Making your Avalanche Weather Forecast**

- Review the I/D/N values in the Current Weather and Forecast Totals/Averages columns and enter the trend in the Combined Totals/Averages column for each parameter. If both columns have the same values, the trend is clear. If they differ, use the values that make the most sense for your forecasting situation. For example, if you’re producing a short-term forecast, you should rely more on current values.
- To forecast overall avalanche potential, review the Combined Totals/Averages column and identify the most prevalent value (increasing, decreasing, or no change).