



# **Police Organisational Capability & overview for Avalanche SAR**

- **Our role is Incident Control for all Category 1 SAROPS**
- **Maintaining an overview of the SAR event**
- **Bringing our strengths in Investigative skills**
- **Specific Avalanche risk areas covers the South Island's Alpine areas & the North Island's Tongariro National Park & Mt Taranaki**



# Avalanche SAR

## **Police are users of Specialised assets:**

- **Skills & expertise provided by ACR teams nationwide**
- **Utilising the skills of those working in the Alpine environments eg: DOC's considerable commitment to Mt Cook ACR team**
- **LSAR Avalanche search dogs & their handlers**
- **Ski Patrols**
- **Commercial Operators**
- **Helicopter assets with a working local knowledge of the environment**



# Avalanche SAR

- **Recognition and utilisation of Experts in Avalanche risk assessments**
- **Acknowledgement that Avalanche events are extremely time critical requiring a team effort across all available search and rescue assets**
- **The Urgent need for high level medical intervention ASAP**



# Avalanche SAR

- **No matter how much Avalanche risks are mitigated there will always be incidents with people not heeding warnings or just being caught out**
- **Police also have a primary role as the agent for the Coroner in all Avalanche fatalities and the ensuing investigations amongst other's utilising recognised experts in the field**



# Avalanche SAR

- **The use of Pre-plans that need regular updating to refine the immediate appropriate response in the interest of the victims being located and rescued when the real event happens**
- **The debriefing of SAROPS to see what went well & what can be improved.**
- **The sharing of lessons identified for the benefit of all future victims across the SAR sector**