

Litigation



These avalanche control devices at Echo Summit on Highway 50 near Lake Tahoe explode propane gas that creates a shock wave to control deadly avalanches from burying the road below.

Caltrans found the base plates on the front posts were failing.



Caltrans was forced to add gusset plates to the post bases (the left and right gussets were added) and take other expensive remedial measures. Caltrans sued the contractor, who countersued the manufacturer. Culp & Tanner found that the design did not allow for normal construction tolerances (they were trying to build a “watch” on the side of a steep mountain), and that the plans from the manufacturer were so poor, inadequate, and ambiguous that the contractor could not install the system such that problems would not have occurred.

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