The Katal Landing Pad

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The Katal Landing Pad is the next-generation safety device that allows skiers and snowboarders to try out challenging maneuvers

Measuring 50 feet wide by 90 feet long, the 5-foot-thick pad covers the entire surface area of a jump after the takeoff, allowing users to attempt new tricks without the consequences of crashing on an icy landing. Unlike traditional foam pits used for jumping, the Katal Landing Pad allows users to simulate more closely an actual jump landing.

The multi-chambered inflatable structure, featuring a patented air-release mechanism, was conceptualized by Aaron Coret in 2005 after he broke his neck in a snowboarding accident and was left a quadriplegic. Coret teamed up with best friend and fellow engineer Steve Slen to build the pad as a way to allow skiers and snowboarders to progress in a safe environment.

Â http://vimeo.com/2302056