SAIS Avalanche Forecaster Training

Current Observer and Forecaster Standards

SAIS Observer standard
Responsibilities
Carries out field observations and forecasts **under the daily supervision** and/or verification by the relevant area SAIS Senior Forecaster.
Can operate independently in terms of managing responsibilities and hazards in the field, compiling risk assessments and the necessary operational actions that minimise personal risk in the field.

Snow science skills
- Has a good understanding of the factors that influence snowpack stability in the Scottish snowpack.
- Has a knowledge of crystal type and snow grain development and implication for snow stability.
- Can carry out snow profile observations to a high standard and in accordance with internationally recognised methodology.
- Has a complete understanding of the Scottish snowpack in comparison to maritime and continental snowpacks.
- Can consider appropriately, snow profile observations, field observations, and spatial variation in an Avalanche Hazard assessment for a mountain area.
- Has a complete understanding of weather forecast implications on snowpack stability and avalanche hazard forecasting.

Experience Requirements
- Has completed the SAIS Avalanche Forecaster Training Programme.
- Has carried out between 60 - 100 logged snow-profiles .
- Has carried out a recommended number of 60 avalanche hazard evaluations which demonstrate a standard suitable for public information snow and avalanche hazard reports.
- Has successfully completed a written paper,
- Has provided sufficient logged, Avalanche Field book experience.
- Has provided to the required standard, clear logged Avalanche Field book records.
- Has successfully passed a field assessment being examined by 2 independent SAIS Forecasters in respect of field observations and methodology.
- Has successfully passed an assessment of Avalanche Report compilation by a Senior Forecaster and the SAIS Co-ordinator.

SAIS Avalanche Forecaster Training

Current Observer and Forecaster Standards

SAIS Forecaster
Responsibilities
Can **operate independently** in terms of providing the public with good information in respect of assessing daily current avalanche hazards and compiling avalanche hazard forecasts for an area.
Is at the appropriate level of experience, knowledge and skill to act as an Observer/Forecaster for any SAIS forecast area, and provide high standard information to an Area Senior Forecaster and SAIS Co-ordinator.

Snow science skills
- Has a complete understanding of the factors that influence snowpack stability in the Scottish snowpack.
- Has a complete knowledge of crystal type, snow grain development and implication for snow stability.
- Can carry out snow profile observations to a high standard and in accordance with internationally recognised methodology.
- Has a complete understanding of the Scottish snowpack and comparison to maritime and continental snowpacks.
- Can consider appropriately, snow profile observations, field observations and spatial variability in an Avalanche Hazard assessment for a mountain area.
- Has a complete understanding of weather forecast implications on snowpack stability and avalanche hazard forecasting.
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Experience Requirements
- Has successfully achieved the SAIS Observer Standard.
- Has independently carried out a recommended number of 50 logged snow-profiles in addition to the number required at observer level.
- Has independently carried out a recommended number of 50 avalanche hazard evaluations at a standard suitable for public information snow and avalanche hazard reports in addition to the number required at observer level.
- Has undergone a final review process by a Senior Forecaster and SAIS Co-ordinator.