

Developing the “Be Avalanche Aware” process.

The following is an outline of Avalanche Education timeline developments and actions.

The initiative for the current BAA process started in Oct 2011 with a SAFOS (Snow and Avalanche Foundation of Scotland) seminar in Edinburgh.


Its main objective was to provide an opportunity for all winter mountain enthusiasts, skiers, boarders, climbers, walkers, mountain guides, instructors and other professionals to address the challenges that avalanche hazard in Scotland presents.

It was attended by approx 125 people representing a cross section of those engaging with the winter mountains.

Seminar and workshop outcomes were as follows:

1. To develop an essential avalanche awareness "info card" incorporating recent advances in avalanche education in conjunction with a wide range of agencies involved in the provision of avalanche education, and to identify effective means for the distribution of such a card.
2. To consider how information related to safe travel and avalanche hazard could be consistently incorporated in mountain information provided in blogs and other condition reports.
3. To consider developing a range of resources for avalanche education programmes, including online resources, which would be freely accessible to the public and those delivering avalanche education.
4. To coordinate the development of an avalanche education structure which would provide a consistent model for both the public and all those involved in the teaching of avalanche awareness.

29-30 October 2011
EICA Ratho Edinburgh




Snow and Avalanche Foundation of Scotland (SAFOS)
Lecture seminar

Decision making in Avalanche terrain


An opportunity for all winter mountain enthusiasts, skiers, boarders, climbers, walkers, mountain guides, instructors and other professionals to address the challenges that avalanche hazard in Scotland presents. What snowpack conditions are we faced with? How can we effectively manage decision making as enthusiasts, as rescue teams, as individuals and as commercial operators?

These topics and relevant experiences will be presented by: Stefan Harvey - WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, Switzerland, Ed Chard - Jagged Globe, Dave MacLeod - Professional Climber, Mark Williams - Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Science, Liverpool John Moores University, Mark Diggins - SAIS Coordinator, John Allen MBE - Scottish Mountain Rescue. The seminar will also provide an opportunity for participants to discuss topics and issues relevant to all mountain users and enable a better understanding of the challenges that we face in avalanche terrain.



Cost
£15 Saturday day fee (includes Dave MacLeod evening presentation)
£10 Dave MacLeod evening presentation
£10 Sunday workshop fee
Go to www.sais.gov.uk to book your place

The cost of the seminar has been subsidised by the Pritchard family who lost their son Robert in an avalanche on Buechalt Elve Mor during the winter of 2008/10. Their wish is that as many mountain users as possible have the opportunity to further their understanding of avalanche hazard, and are able to continually enjoy, with greater awareness and safety, the beauty, adventure and pleasure that the Scottish highlands have to offer.



Outline Programme
Saturday 29 Oct 2012

Start 10:00
Welcome SAFOS Chair
Scottish winter challenges MD
Working in the mountains - a commercial perspective EC
Mountain rescue and the avalanche problem JA
How we make decisions MW

PM 14:00
Decision making at the sharp end DM
Influences on decision making SH
Break out groups

Sunday 30 Oct am
CPD workshop for winter mountain leaders, rescue personnel, instructors and guides:
Education, forecasts, decision making.

Saturday Evening Presentation

19:30 Dave MacLeod
'Living on Longhope'
cost £10

In the spring of 2013 a SAFOS workshop/seminar was held in order to move forward with the outcomes of the 2011 seminar.

This was attended by the following collaborative agencies from throughout the UK: Scottish Avalanche Information Service, Snow And Avalanche Foundation of Scotland, British Mountain Guides Glenmore Lodge National Outdoor Training Centre Scotland Plas y Brenin National Outdoor Training Centre England Mountaineering Council of Scotland British Association of Ski Patrollers, Ski recreation representatives, Joint Services Training, British Mountaineering Council, Police Scotland, Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland, Scottish Mountaineering Club, British Association of International Mountain Leaders, Mountain Training UK, Mountain Training Scotland, Association of Mountaineering Instructors, SLF (Snow and Avalanche Research) Switzerland.

The outcome from the workshop is the current **Be Avalanche Aware** process. This was developed during 2013 and was **launched mid winter 2014**. It was presented as a leaflet containing all information relevant to the BAA process.



- The initiative was wholly funded by sportScotland.
- It provided for the first time a consistent process for avalanche education.
- It has been adopted throughout the UK and abroad as a framework by many agencies and individuals.
- Continued design of BAA product that would be utilised in an App.

The 3 factors    should be considered together during each of the following three important phases :



A third SAFOS seminar/workshop in Oct 2015 was attended by: mountain professionals, leaders, mountain rescue personnel, ski patrollers, instructors, mountain guides, forecasters and associated public information organisations and agencies UK wide.

With a workshop objective of:

- Finding solutions for presenting avalanche hazard information and education.
- Effective tools for helping and influencing decision making.
- Progressing the “Be Avalanche Aware Initiative”.

Outcomes :

Education: Short term - adopt Hazard Evaluation forms currently used for BMG,ML/MIC courses. Med Term- Develop a structure and courses with outcomes. Long Term - develop courses and syllabi.

Both the seminar and feedback from agencies, ML course providers and CWT courses is that tools to help with the BAA process would help provide a framework in the field and tools to assist education providers.

Work has continued in respect of achieving the outcomes identified in the 2011 and 2015 workshops and the following has been developed:

- Enhanced mountain observations and blog information on the SAIS website.
- Collaboration with the Met Office in regard of presenting mountain conditions and potential weather impacts.
- The continued development of the BAA process in regard to App development and public availability.
- Development of trainer packs for assisting with the delivery of the BAA process.

24-25 October 2015
EICA RATHO Edinburgh

SAFOS Snow and Avalanche Foundation of Scotland
(SAFOS) Lecture Seminar
AVALANCHE HAZARD IN SCOTLAND - GETTING THE MESSAGE ?

An opportunity for all mountain enthusiasts, skiers, boarders, climbers, walkers, mountain guides, instructors, ski patrol, mountain rescue personnel and other professionals to address the challenges that avalanche hazard in Scotland presents. What snow conditions are we faced with ? How can we manage ourselves in mountain terrain ? How can we best understand the messages and information about avalanche hazard that we present or receive? What can we learn from others about ourselves and how we understand and interpret messages ? What solutions can we develop to best present the avalanche hazard message and avalanche hazard understanding for the Scottish mountains.

These topics and relevant experiences will be presented by Grant Statham Parks Canada Avalanche Risk specialist, Stephen Harvey WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research Switzerland, Jim Watson Meteorological Office, Drod Tunstall Creative Director Regemics, Mark Diggins Scottish Avalanche Information Service, with presentations from the national outdoor training centres; Glenmore Lodge and Plas Y Brenin and the SAIS.

Cost
£35 (incl vat) Saturday fee (includes Tea/coffees and sandwich lunch)
£10 (incl vat) Evening Presentation
£10 (incl vat) Sunday workshop fee

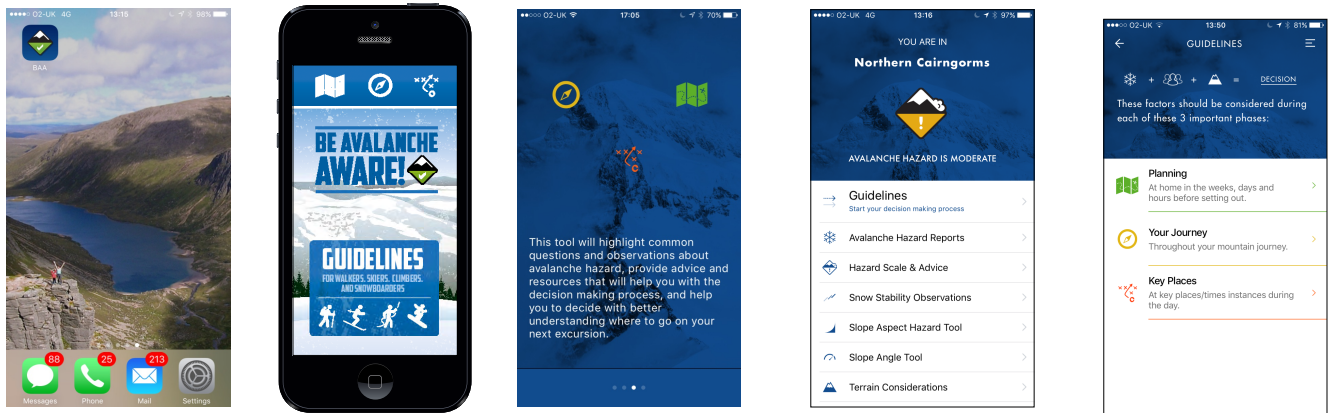
Go here to book: [Pay for Event](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/avalanche-hazard-in-scotland-online) or copy the following to your browser: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/avalanche-hazard-in-scotland-online>
the message: tickets-1549000012

Outline Programme
Saturday 24 Oct
Start 10:00
Welcome and Aims
Topics:
• Scottish winter challenges.
• The 'Be Avalanche Aware' initiative. Now and the future.
• Experiences of avalanche education from abroad and in the UK.
• What types of people go into the mountains.
• Understanding how people behave and react.
Break out group session
• developing next steps
close 17:00
Sunday 25 Oct
start 9:00 am
Topics:
Workshop for mountain professionals, leaders, instructors, mountain guides, forecasters and associated public information organisations and agencies.
Solutions for presenting avalanche hazard information and education. Effective tools for helping and influencing decision making.
Progressing the 'Be Avalanche Aware Initiative'.
Close 12:30pm

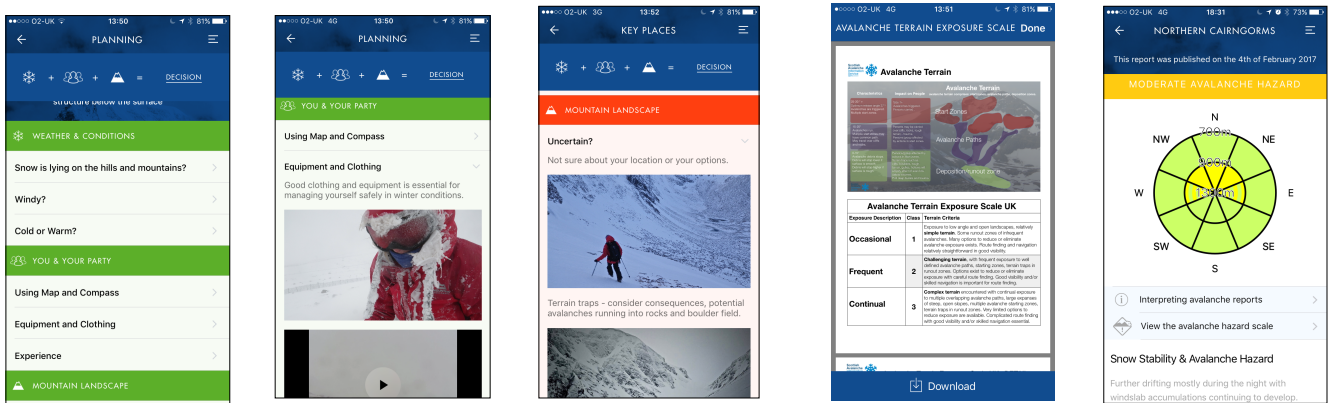
Saturday Evening Presentation
19:30 Grant Statham
"Wilderness Adventures in Western Canada"
the development of climbing skiing and adventures in Banff National park - experiences and great images of wilderness - modern adventure touring, ice fall and rock climbing.

SAFOS Snow and Avalanche Foundation of Scotland
EICA RATHO Edinburgh
sportscotland the national agency for sport

Screen shot Overview of BAA app - developed in iOS and Android platforms



BAA process with user friendly content

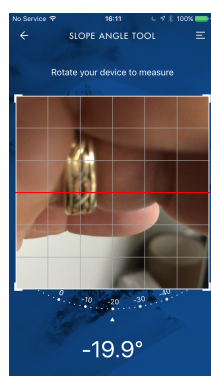


Key questions with text clip and image answers.

Resources and avalanche reports



Tools - Hazard/slope aspect/ Orientation



Tools - Slope angle

Trainer Pack

Laminated worksheets containing Overview - How to use.

Planning worksheets

In the field Cue cards for exploring group questions on Human factors, Terrain and avalanche exposure and Weather and avalanche observations.

Slope angle contour tool credit cards.

Pens and folders.



Current situation

the forthcoming workshop and seminar is the next step in the development of the BAA process

June 2019 Seminar /Workshop:

Avalanche Hazard - Providing information and education to those who engage in winter activities in Scotlands mountains.

Dates: **Wed 19, Thur 20 June 2019**

Over two days presentations and workshops will provide the opportunity to take part and help develop how avalanche hazard is understood and presented to a range of user groups.

It is aimed at interested parties, representative bodies, organisations and individuals who are involved in delivery, education and enabling participation.

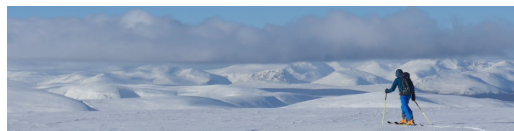
Outline of subjects

- Understanding our winter environment and its challenges
- Address the established 'Be Avalanche Aware' framework and take steps for its development and presentation to a range of groups and communities that engage in the winter environment. eg. formal avalanche education structures - modules - learning platforms - public information.
- Understanding how those who engage in the winter environment are influenced by others. via peers and social-media.
- Understanding how individuals interact with danger and risk.

SAFOS ❄️
Snow and Avalanche
Foundation of Scotland

19-20 June 2019
University of the Highlands and Islands.
Inverness

A SEMINAR/WORKSHOP
AVALANCHE HAZARD - PROVIDING INFORMATION AND
EDUCATION TO THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN WINTER ACTIVITIES IN
SCOTLANDS MOUNTAINS.



An opportunity for representative bodies, interested parties, organisations and individuals who are involved in delivery, education and enabling participation, to take part in this important gathering. The aim of the workshop is to help develop how avalanche hazard is understood and presented to a range of user groups; skiers, snowboarders, climbers, walkers, mountain guides, instructors, ski patrol, mountain rescue personnel and other professionals, as well as all those who engage in winter activities for recreation.

Over two days presentations and workshops will provide the opportunity to:

- Further our understanding of Scotlands winter environment and its challenges.
- Address the established 'Be Avalanche Aware' framework and take steps for its development and presentation to a range of groups and communities that engage in the winter environment. eg. formal avalanche education structures - modules - learning platforms - public information.
- Understand how those who engage in the winter environment are influenced by others via peers and social-media.
- Understand how individuals interact with danger and risk.

These topics and relevant experiences will be presented by representatives and experts from Avalanche Canada, Scottish Avalanche Information Service, Mountain Training Scotland, Glenmore Lodge - National Outdoor Training Centre, Meteorological Office, Elite athlete coaching and human behaviour researchers.

Outline Programme

Wednesday 19 June

Start 10:00

Welcome and Aims

Topics:

- Scottish winter challenges and information provision.
- The 'Be Avalanche Aware' initiative. How is it being used.
- Learning from other operations, Avalanche Canada, Met Office.
- Understand how people behave and are influenced.
- Challenges and Inspiration.
- Break out group session to consider and develop next steps for workshop. close 16:00

Thursday 20 June

Start 09:30

Topics:

- Workshops to consider and develop:
 - Progressing the "Be Avalanche Aware Initiative".
 - Solutions for presenting avalanche hazard information and education. Effective tools for helping and influencing decision making.
- Close 15:00

Accommodation: options in Aviemore: <https://www.visitaviemore.com/accommodation/>

Transport: A daily shuttle by Glenmore Lodge minibus will be available from Aviemore/Strathspey locations, contact ian.sherrington@glenmorelodge.org.uk to reserve. (NB places are limited).

Food: Lunches, teas/coffees will be provided free of charge. A group evening dinner in a local restaurant will be arranged for wed 19, to book a place contact: ian.sherrington@glenmorelodge.org.uk

Key support
and sponsors:



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