

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO AIM, NOVEMBER 2023

Section 1: Program Overview

Change	Rationale
Date changed from 2020 to 2023	Indicate correct date of update
Time commitment for Avalanche Awareness changed from 30-90 minutes to 60-90 minutes	Consistency with A3 Avalanche Awareness guidelines
Time commitment for Avalanche Companion Rescue changed from approximately 8 hours to minimum 8 hours, 5 in the field	Consistency with A3 Avalanche Rescue guidelines
Time commitment for Level 1 Avalanche Module 1 changed from approximately 8 hours to minimum 8 hours	Consistency with A3 classroom instruction guidelines
Time commitment for Level 1 Avalanche Module 2 changed from approximately 14 hours to minimum 16 hours	Consistency with A3 Level 1 Avalanche field instruction requirements
Description of Level 2 Avalanche for Rescue Personnel changed from “This is an enhanced Level 2 course” to “This is an advanced course, different from Recreational Level 2,”	Clarification that NSP’s Level 2 course is not intended to be a Recreational Level 2 course.
Maximum student/instructor ratio changed from 7:1 to 6:1	Consistency with A3 guidelines for field sessions.
Under Resources Required, text added to indicate that Level 1 IORs must be Professional Members of A3.	Consistency with decision of NSP’s National Board of Directors.
Operational Risk Management Checklist added to Risk Management section	Recommendation from A3
Under Avalanche Instructor Development and Certification Guidelines, added A3 membership-level requirements for Level-1 Instructors and Instructors of Record	Consistency with decision of NSP’s National Board of Directors.

Section 2: Avalanche Awareness

Change	Rationale
Date changed from 2020 to 2023	Indicate correct date of update
Under Avalanche Awareness Guide, changed 30-60 minutes to 60-90 minutes	Consistency with earlier text in this section

Section 3: Senior Elective

Change	Rationale
Date changed from 2020 to 2023	Indicate correct date of update
Instructor Requirements added: IOR and Instructors must be certified NSP avalanche instructors. It is recommended that presenters be at least General members of the American Avalanche Association.	Clarify instructor qualifications

Section 4: Companion Rescue

Change	Rationale
Date changed from 2020 to 2023	Indicate correct date of update
Restriction on stand-alone courses left intact	Requires further discussion by National Avalanche Committee. Note: Organized Avalanche Rescue (see below) is available to anyone who has completed a level-1 course.
Time commitment changed from "Estimate times: Classroom 3-4 hours. Field 5-6 hours" to "minimum 8 hours, 5 in the field"	Consistency with A3 guidelines and Section 1
Under Instructor Requirements, added A3 membership requirements for Instructors and IORs	Consistency with A3 guidelines.

Section 5: Level 1 Avalanche

Change	Rationale
Date changed from 2020 to 2023	Indicate correct date of update
Added A3 instructor requirements for IOR and Instructors to the Introduction.	Consistency with board of directors' decision
Time commitment for Module 1 changed from "Estimated time commitment 8 hours" to "Minimum time commitment 8 hours."	Consistency with A3 guidelines and Section 1
Time commitment for Module 2 changed from "Estimate minimum time commitment 14 hours" to "Minimum time commitment 16 hours."	Consistency with A3 guidelines and Section 1
Under Suggested Time Distribution for Module 2, total changed from 14 to 16 hours	Consistency with A3 guidelines

Section 6: Level 2 Avalanche for Rescue Personnel

Change	Rationale
Date changed from 2020 to 2023	Indicate correct date of update
Text added to indicate that this is not a Recreational Level 2 course.	Clarification of course objectives