



## What is FIPS?

The Fédération Internationale des Patrouilles de Ski (FIPS) is the international organisation representing ski patrol and associated ski safety organisations with membership from throughout the world.

These patrol and safety organisations comprise fulltime & volunteer ski patrollers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, technicians, ski equipment instructors, ski area managers, etc., who are involved in the multi-disciplinary activities of ski patrolling and safety.

## History

The foundation of FIPS can be traced back prior to 1979 when the first meeting was held in Calgary, Canada. Although there were many ski patrols in existence at that time, there was very little communication between them. Patrollers who had the opportunity to ski in other countries noticed differences and some commonality in procedures and standards relative to their own. In addition, accident prevention programmes were being implemented in some countries but not in others. A number of countries did not have a national ski patrol organisation.



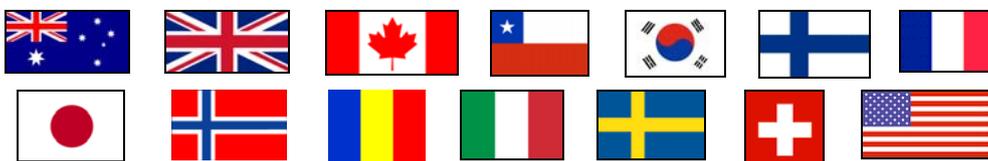
FIPS was created as the world forum for ski patrollers to meet, exchange ideas and compare the latest in patrol techniques on a regular basis. FIPS is supported by national patrol organisations, both large and small, to provide the necessary input and to offer potential solutions to patrolling issues.

Not all patrols gain the same benefits from FIPS. Indeed there are many that give a lot more than they receive. This sharing is the essence of FIPS. As more and more countries join FIPS, the interchange of ideas can only improve the effectiveness of ski patrolling and, in turn, benefit the snow sports public.

FIPS exists due to the combined efforts of interested patrollers, individual ski patrols and national patrol organisations. With their help, FIPS will continue to grow in size and stature, and will continue to ensure patrollers deliver the best services possible to the skiing public.

## FIPS Structure

FIPS, incorporated in Canada, has a Board of Directors representing the member countries, an elected President and an appointed volunteer secretariat of Secretary, and Treasurer. There are Vice Presidents are appointed to assist with coordination within particular regions of the world and to manage specific aspects of the FIPS organisation. A FIPS Executive committee takes care of day-to-day management of the organisation. FIPS funding is from organisation membership fees and by patroller attendance at the biennial Congresses.



## **FIPS Congresses**

Since its inception, FIPS members have gathered approximately every two year for a Congress at a ski resort in one of the member countries. These congresses provide an opportunity for ski patrollers from around the globe to learn from each other, grow together and benefit from each others experiences.

Congresses have been held in Canada, USA, Chile, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Sweden, Scotland and France.



At the congresses there are formal presentations, workshops, demonstrations and discussion groups that have targeted specific areas of patrolling. Some of the topics covered have included skier safety, training and education, medical aspects, innovations, statistics, injury types, disabled skiers, avalanche, evacuation techniques, administration of drugs, cross-country and downhill patrolling, snow board injuries, legal aspects, search and rescue, extended care, avalanche, updates from the various countries, etc. The FIPS Board of Directors also meets during each congress.

The most recent FIPS Congress was in Canada in 2014 with the next congress in Italy in April 2016.

## **FIPS Special Interest Groups**

At the Congress at Chatel in 2012 FIPS established the Medical and Avalanche special interest groups. In 2014 the Big White Congress added the Technology group. In their respective areas these groups will act as a conduit for the collection, assessment and distribution of world best practice information for FIPS members.

## **Member Organisations**

- Australia
- Canada
- Chile
- Finland
- France
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Norway
- Rumania
- Scotland (UK)
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- USA

In addition, there a number of Associate Members who have an interest in FIPS

## **Require More Information?**

Check the FIPS Website: [www.fips-skipatrol.org](http://www.fips-skipatrol.org)  
Email the President: [president@fips-skipatrol.org](mailto:president@fips-skipatrol.org)

