



20th FIPS Congress Passo Tonale, Italy April 2016



The 20th FIPS Congress was hosted by Italy and held at Passo Tonale from 2-9 April 2016.

Seventeen countries participated in the Congress. There were approximately 150 international and 40 Italian attendees, with large contingents from both Canada and the USA. Due to the numbers, participants had to be spread across four hotels.

After a press conference there was the flag and opening ceremony by a regional Lombardia government official and the two local mayors. Then the FIPS President, Jean-Louis Tuillon, and the President of FISPS, made everyone welcome.



Opening Ceremony – Photos: Luca Festari, Rik Head

The Congress then consisted of a series of in-door presentations and workshops, outdoor demonstrations and multi-country practical scenarios. In addition, there were meetings of the Special Interest Groups, and national delegates also attended FIPS Board meetings and the FIPS Biennial General Meeting.

On the Wednesday participants enjoyed a free ski day or went to the ProWinter trade show at Balzano. On various evenings social hospitality was provided by Canada, the USA and BASP. On the final evening there was a Congress Gala Dinner held on the glacier at Passo Paradiso.

Congress Activities

In-door presentations and workshops covered a range of topics relevant to ski patrol and included:

- An introduction to Pontedilegna ski area, Passo Tonale, Vermiglio, and the Presena Glacier
- Operation of FISPS in Italy, their training and organisation
- Spinal injuries and the golden hour – Italy *
- Swiss accidents in winter sport areas – the statistics - Switzerland *
- Traumatic brain injuries, the number one killer... - Sweden *
- Peer to peer support for EMS responders – Italy *
- A unique approach for BSAR peer support in Australia *
- Critical incident stress panel discussion – Italy and Australia

- FIPS Special Interest Groups - an update and how to join *



Indoor Presentations – Photos: Elisa Comi, Luca Festari

- Technology in the ski industry – a report by Duncan Isaksen-Loxton, FIPS Technology SIG Coordinator *
- The World Ski Patroller Survey 2015 conducted by Medic 52 – Australia *
- Mountain Drones – drone technology & its relevance in the mountain environment – USA *
- Kong (Italy) rescue safety equipment developments in conjunction with FISPS
- Legal – liability and risk management – USA *
- A FIPS update on ICAR and highlights of their 2015 Congress in Ireland *
- Avalanche accidents in Italy – a review *
- Henry's avalanche talk – UK
- Use of safety checklists to reduce avalanche incidents
- The Ortovox Safety Academy Lab - Autovox
- LinkPro smart helmet development *
- Snow and avalanche forecasting and monitoring in Italy
- International Paralympic Committee – Para alpine skiing - specific considerations for ski patrol *
- International Paralympic Committee – Helping para athlete skiers *
- Proposals for FIPS 2018 from Argentina * and Russia *
- During the Congress there were specific updates from the following ski patrol organisations:
 - FIPS – Special Interest Groups *
 - FIPS – Presidents Address *
 - Argentina *
 - Andorra Pistiers *
 - ANPS (France)
 - BASP (UK) *
 - Canada – CSP, a journey of renewal, joint presentation with NSP *
 - Chile, including ski patrol base fire video *
 - Korea
 - Romania - ski patrol and search & rescue
 - Russia – Rosa Khutor *
 - Serbia Mountain Rescue Service & Harder to Breathe video *
 - Sweden – an update*
 - USA – NSP update, a joint presentation with CSP *
 - PisteurSecouriste.com - the new ski patroller association in France

* Indicates the presentation is available for individual private use to registered subscribers on the www.fips-skipatrol.org web site



On-snow scenarios – Photos: Elisa Comi, Rik Head, Luca Festari

Outdoor activities included:

- Patroller first aid scenarios in the field – a three activity round robin
- Use of Kong rescue safety equipment on patrolled slopes
- Approaches to avalanche, beacons and probing
- International patroller teams using toboggans to achieve a safe decent through a defined course. After a series of controlled or not so controlled descents the Italian Spaghetti team was declared the winning team



Photo: Rik Head

- Testing of the SN0G Avalanche Buddy app for Android phones
- A night ski flare run by patrollers
- Chile made a presentation to Australia in appreciation of support provided following ski patrol house fires at two of their resorts

FIPS Special Interest Groups

- The special interest groups met at various times throughout the Congress.
- Each of the SIG Coordinators was responsible for presentations on their allocated afternoon and the associated in-field activities
- The facilitators for the special interest groups are:
 - Medical group - Dr Poul Kongstad, took over from Dr John Holmes (UK)
 - Avalanche group - Ed Carlson (USA)
 - Technology group - Duncan Isaksen-Loxton (Australia)
 - Legal group – Ed Gassman (USA)
- Patrollers interested in joining any of the SIGs must register via the FIPS-skipatrol.org web site

The FIPS Biennial General Meeting and Board Meetings

The Board met four times during the Congress and there was the FIPS Biennial General Meeting. The key outcomes were:

- New members ratified or accepted at the Congress included:

National:

- Asociatia Nationala a Salvatorilor Montani din Romania
- Mountain Rescue Service Serbia

Associates:

- Medic52 (Australia)

- US Professional Ski Patrol Association
- Henry's Avalanche Talk (UK)
- Swiss Ski Patrol
- PisteurSecouriste.com (France)
- Reports by the President, Secretary and Treasurer
- FIPS joined the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR) in October 2015, with attendance by various FIPS member countries
- A very successful mini three-day FIPS European ski patrol meeting was held at Montgenevre, France on 21-24 January 2015
- Following consideration by the new Board, the president of FIPS remains Jean-Louis Tuallon (France)
 - At the request of the President the meeting agreed that Bruce Lochhead (Canada) should remain as Co-President, Secretary: Rik Head (Australia), and Treasurer and Canadian Government Liaison: Hugh Thomassin (Canada)
- The Mark Labow Award for 2016 was made to Luca Sardelli of Italy for his continued contribution to FIPS over many years, congratulations Luca



Luca Sardelli being presented with the Mark Labow Award by President Jean-Louis Tuallon - Photo: Luca Festari

- Report from the medical special interest group and topics proposed for the 2018 Congress
- FIPS has agreed to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to promote cooperation with the International Paralympic Committee for our mutual benefit
- After consideration of potential location options the Board decided that the 21st FIPS Congress will be at Soche, Russia in 2018. Full detailed to be provided to the FIPS Executive for confirmation by end of December 2016



SN0G Testing - read the app disclaimers



Chile presentation to Australia



Photos: Rik Head

A very big thank you to the FISPS Italian Organising Committee and to the more than 40 patrollers who worked tirelessly to make a most successful congress.

This report and, where the authors have agreed, a number of the indoor presentations (shown with an *) are available on the FIPS website to registered subscribers for individual private use.



Thank you to our Italian hosts - Photos: Elisa Comi, Luca Festari

FIPS Contacts

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Passo Tonale in good snow



Avalanche training



Italian lift



FISPS at ProWinter trade show



Rescue sled innovation
 Photos: Elisa Comi, Rik Head, Luca Festari



ProWinter trade show

See you all at Sochi, Russia, 13-20 January 2018