

Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center (HPAC)

POSITION: Avalanche Specialist

LOCATION: Hatcher Pass, AK

POSITION TYPE: Seasonal

DATE POSTED: 12/23/2023

CLOSING DATE: rolling

RATE OF PAY: \$25.00/hr DOE

Please Contact andydennis@hpavalanche.org to apply for this position or to learn more.

Description/Terms of Contract:

Hatcher Pass Avalanche Forecaster. This is an exempt, seasonal position (January 15th, 2024– April 20th, 2024.) This is an at-will position.

Duty station is in Hatcher Pass, Alaska. Employee shall be compensated at the salaried rate of \$25 per hour DOE. Additional compensation may be determined at time to time by the Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center Board.

Job Description

The HPAC issues regular weekly avalanche forecasts and avalanche warnings during the winter months to assist backcountry recreationalists in making informed and safe decisions. HPAC staff also handles administrative duties and teaches educational programs to backcountry recreationalists, local emergency service personnel, and others as requested.

Forecaster responsibilities include:

- Issuance of weekly backcountry avalanche forecasts for public dissemination
- When appropriate, issue avalanche warnings through local media
- Conduct regular fieldwork in backcountry avalanche terrain to determine avalanche hazard
- Interpret National Weather Service weather models and write a mountain weather forecast
- Update a database of avalanche information. Update website and social media outlets
- Conduct interviews with local media (TV, radio, newspapers) on avalanche conditions
- Interface with key avalanche and community agencies and emergency service organizations
- Teach classroom and field-based avalanche education programs for a variety of audiences
- Collect and record daily snowpack and weather observations

The right candidate should have the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- 2 Years of professional avalanche experience with avalanche danger rating experience
- Strong background and training in snowpack observation and avalanche hazard evaluation and companion rescue
- Strong backcountry skiing and/or snowboarding and/or snowmobiling skills
- Excellent physical condition with strong skills in mountain travel and winter survival
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Well-versed in a variety of computer programs and applications
- Strong meteorological skills, preferably with operational experience forecasting for mountain weather and avalanches

Work Environment:

Field work will be performed outdoors in a winter environment. Travel will include accessing job sites by backcountry skis or snowboards and/or snow machines, sometimes through avalanche terrain. Alaska experiences a variety of snowpack and climates, including areas receiving large and frequent snowstorms and areas with low snow and a shallow snowpack. Mid-winter rain events are also common.

HPAC agrees to provide the following:

- Support with mentoring, equipment, general liability insurance, workers compensation
- Employee development/training opportunities
- AAA professional membership dues
- Salaried compensation of \$25 per hour based on approximately 20-35 hours per week.
- Mileage reimbursement at \$0.655/mile in 2022/23