

SUNDRY EQUIPMENT

Maps

The Ordnance Survey's "Pathfinder" and "Explorer" series both have a scale of 1:25000. These are the only type worth considering for hiking. 1:50000 ("Landranger") are not detailed enough.

It is now possible to buy maps ready laminated, giving total protection against the elements. If you use ordinary paper maps, then a map-case is a necessity.

Compasses

Compasses should be stored away from metal objects and other compasses. Periodically check your compass against a known direction or other compass to ensure that it is still giving an accurate reading. Small bubbles that form in the housing are quite normal and do not

affect the performance of the compass. Compasses that develop large bubbles (more than one-third of the entire housing) can affect the balance of the compass needle and should be returned to your retailer for repair.

Electrical & Electronic Equipment

Electrical and electronic equipment such as walkie-talkies, global positioning systems (GPS), altimeters, satellite and cellular communication devices, and avalanche transceivers are standard equipment in the rucsacs of many outdoor users. However, it is important to bear in mind that batteries will

eventually fail, as can electronic circuit boards and even satellites. It is vital that users do not rely solely on such items for their safety. The ability to use a map and compass and 'read' potentially avalanche-prone slopes are vital skills that outdoor users should be familiar with.

Trekking Poles

Trekking poles with adjustable shafts should be periodically dismantled and dried thoroughly. Check plastic parts

for signs of wear and tear, and replace in good time before the pole loses its telescopic functionality.

Lanterns

A number of battery-operated lantern designs are available, other lanterns burn the same types of fuel that stoves use so the remarks made above also apply here. Take care when lighting the mantle. If hanging a lantern take care that it cannot

burn/melt the object that it is suspended from. Glass globes and mantles are very easily broken; carrying your lantern in a padded bag or making a 'cosy' for your globe with a piece of closed-cell foam will help protect it from accidental knocks.