

NEW SERIES: mini-guides

AVALANCHE!

INFORMATION

People say avalanches are unpredictable. Is that true? And even if it is, is that an excuse for throwing your life away?

It is certainly true that no-one is in a position to claim that they can predict every avalanche, and it has to be said that some are particularly baffling, even for the most experienced.

Nevertheless, an avalanche is not a supernatural event, and even without expert knowledge of the release mechanisms in all their complexity, it is still possible to identify the majority of hazardous situations. It is enough to be able to 'read' the mountain to reduce considerably the threat posed by the 'white death'.

This little guide will assist those who wish to undertake this apprenticeship. In the first instance it permits a wider understanding of the phenomenon, through the use of both objective data and the accounts of witnesses and survivors. It reveals some of the indications which, for those who know how to interpret them, will enable a local assessment of avalanche hazard to be made and a number of pitfalls to be avoided. Finally, it provides some rules of thumb, be it for free-riders, ski tourers, walkers or climbers, that will permit safer travel on the mountains.

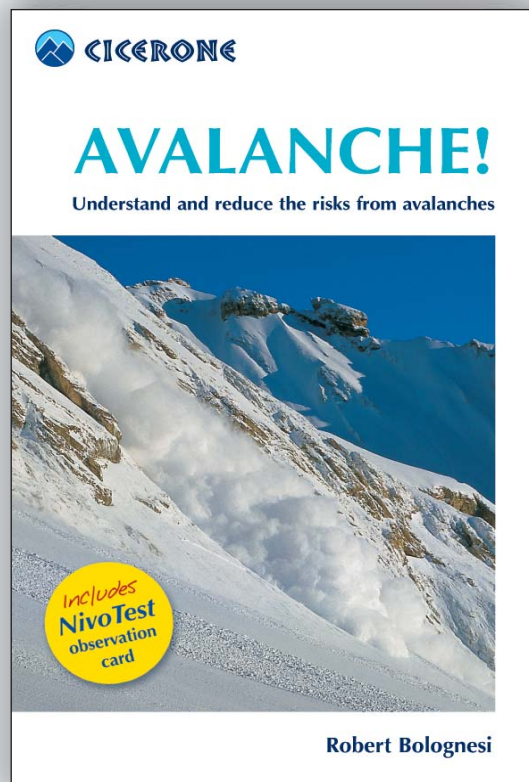
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Translation by Blyth Wright, head of the Scottish Avalanche Information Service.

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AVALANCHE! Understand and reduce the risks from avalanches

PRICE: £7.99

ISBN (10): 1 85284 473 6

ISBN (13): 978 1 85284 473 8

CODE: 473

PUBLICATION: January 2007 (re-scheduled from 2005)

AUTHOR: Robert Bolognesi

CONTENTS: 15cm by 10cm. 112pp. Full colour throughout. PB PVC cover.

KEY MARKETING POINTS

- The most comprehensive guide to avalanche risk assessment
- Suitable for participants in all winter sports

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