

Deep Slab Instability, Decision Making, and Consequences: A Case Study

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On March 8th, 2008 an avalanche occurred on Mt. Eyak, near Cordova, Alaska. It resulted in the death of an avalanche forecaster, and the broken femur of another person. Through a summary of weather observations and snow profile data taken in the same area for weeks prior, this case study explores many factors associated with this event, including deep slab instabilities, stability tests, strain softening, triggering mechanisms, human factors, decision making, and consequences.