

Taking artificial release to Norway (again)

Njål Farestveit; Sara M. Skutlaberg

The Norwegian Public Roads Administration, Bergen, Norway

Norway is troubled with many roads in bad condition. When these roads were constructed they represented a new and modern time. The roads gave people living in the districts the possibility to travel, agricultural merchandises could be exported, and most important, the big industries could develop in the small towns along the fjords (both due to the new road and the easy supply of hydro power). The main avalanche protection of Norwegian roads is done by constructions. Examples are tunnels, galleries, barriers, bridges and so on. For the old roads there is some use of artificial release. Examples are charges put out in the terrain and a few blasting skylines. A new system of maintaining the roads by contractors, on a 4- year contract, has led to a lack of knowledge in how to deal with the old methods of artificial release. Every year a lot of the old roads are struck by avalanches. The modern Norwegian no longer accepts closure of roads due to avalanches or avalanche danger. In 2010 the Norwegian Public Roads Administration (the NPRA) has tested The DaisyBell. For the next two years the NPRA will test the Wyssen Avalanche Tower.