

The localization map of avalanche phenomena (CLPA): stakes and prospects

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The Localization Map of Avalanche Phenomena (CLPA in French) was created in 1971 as a response to the deadly avalanche occurred in Val d'Isère (February 1970, 39 persons killed). The aim is to inventory and to memorize areas where avalanches occurred in the past in order to keep in memory precisely the greatest limits of those avalanches. The CLPA was rapidly considered as an essential element for developing plan in mountainous areas. After the other catastrophic avalanche, which occurred in the Montroc Village (Chamonix) in February 1999, the ministry in charge of environment decided to continue and to modernize the CLPA, a mission that was assigned to the Cemagref with the ONF collaboration. This modernization was based on digitizing maps and eye witness account records, the compilation of summary notes concerning main avalanche information in reference to a mountain massif, the institution for a durable updating of the map and the possibility of having all information on line on the website www.avalanches.fr. Information recorded in the data-base is very important for research. Now the Cemagref wants to capitalize on it with numerical models and calibrated tools. Specific parameters could be used in order to develop statistical laws which could be used for unknown sites.