Selected Background Readings

This document is part of "Decision Making in Avalanche Terrain: a fieldbook for winter backcountry users" by Pascal Haegeli, Roger Atkins and Karl Klassen and provides a list of selected background readings related to the topic covered in the field book. For additional background information on the topics covered in the field book visit www.avalanche.ca/cac/decisionmaking

General Avalanche Safety Books

Tremper B., 2008. Staying alive in avalanche terrain. 2nd Edition. The Mountaineers, Seattle, WA.

Jamieson J.B., 2000. Backcountry avalanche awareness. 7th Edition. Canadian Avalanche Association, Revelstoke BC.

Jamieson J.B., Svederus D., and Zacaruk L., 2007. Sledding in avalanche terrain. Canadian Avalanche Association, Revelstoke BC.

McClung D.M. and Schaerer P.A., 2006. The Avalanche Handbook. 3rd Edition. The Mountaineers, Seattle, WA.

Fredston J., and Fesler D., 1994. Snow Sense. Alaska Mountain safety Center, Anchorage AK.

Useful Periodicals

Canadian Avalanche Association. avalanche.ca—The journal of Canada's avalanche community. (Newsletter of the Canadian Avalanche Association; four issues per year; see http://www.avalanche.ca/cac/store/books for subscriptions).

American Avalanche Association. The avalanche review (Newsletter of the American Avalanche Association; four issues per year; see http://www.americanavalanche association.org/publications.php for subscriptions).

Decision Making

McCammon I., 2001. Decision making for wilderness leaders: strategies, traps and teaching methods. Proceedings of Wilderness Risk Manager's Conference, Lake Geneva, WI, 2001, 16-29.

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Adams L., 2005. Part I – Avalanche Judgement and decision making. Avalanche News, 74 (3) [available at http://avalancheinf.powweb.com/Newsletters%20and%20Articles/Articles/AdamsAvalancheJudgmentDecisionMaking.pdf].

Haegeli P, 2010. Avaluator—Avalanche Accident Prevention Card. 2nd Edition. Canadian Avalanche Centre, Revelstoke BC.

Haegeli P., and Statham G., 2006. Decisions, decisions, decisions… Online article on the website of Mountain Equipment Coop. [available at http://www.mec.ca/Main/content_text.jsp?FOLDER%3C%3Efolder_id=2534374302887203].

Avalanche Terrain

Statham G., McMahon B. and Tomm I., 2006. The avalanche terrain exposure scale. Proceedings of International Snow Science Workshop, Telluride, CO, Oct. 1-6, 2006, 491-497.

Canadian Avalanche Centre. Avaluator Online Trip Planner at http://www.avalanche.ca/avaluator/ (provides a list of avalanche terrain exposure scale ratings for most popular backcountry trips in each forecast region).

Parks Canada. Avalanche terrain ratings for backcountry touring in the mountain national parks [available at http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/docs/v-g/pm-mp/visit/visit7a9.aspx].

Avalanche Problem

Atkins R., 2004. An avalanche characterization checklist for backcountry travel decisions. Proceedings of International Snow Science Workshop, Penticton, BC, Sept. 19 – 24, 2004.

Snowpack Essentials

van Herwinen A.F.G. and Jamieson J.B., 2007. Fracture character in compression tests. Cold Regions Science and Technology, 47(1-2): 60-68.

Johnson R.F. and Birkeland K.W., 2002. Integrating shear quality into stability test results. Proceedings of International Snow Science Workshop, Penticton, BC, Sept. 29-Oct. 4, 2002, 508-513.

Schweizer J., Kronholm K., Jamieson J.B. and Birkeland K.W., 2008. Review of spatial variability of snowpack properties and its importance for avalanche formation. Cold Regions Science and Technology, 51(2-3): 253-272

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Weather and Snowpack Development

Haegeli P. and McClung D.M., 2007. Expanding the snow climate classification with avalanche relevant information - initial description of avalanche winter regimes for south-western Canada. Journal of Glaciology, 53(181): 266-276.

Jamieson, J.B., Haegeli, P., and Gauthier, D., 2010. Avalanche accident in Canada Volume 5: 1996-2007. Canadian Avalanche Association, Revelstoke BC (each winter is introduced with a detailed summary that outlines the main weather events and the evolution of the snowpack).

Human Factors

McCammon I., 2002. Evidence of heuristic traps in recreational avalanche accidents. Proceedings of International Snow Science Workshop, Penticton, BC, Sept. 29 – Oct. 4, 2002. [available at http://www.snowpit.com/articles/traps%20reprint.pdf]

McCammon I., 2003. Heuristic traps in recreational avalanche accidents: Evidence and implications (Part 1), The Avalanche Review, 22(2): 1 & 16-19.

McCammon I., 2003. Heuristic traps in recreational avalanche accidents: Evidence and implications (Part 2), The Avalanche Review, 22(3): 11-13.

McCammon I., 2006. Human Factors, Online article on the website of Mountain Equipment Coop. [available at http://www.mec.ca/Main/content_text.jsp?FOLDER%3C%3Efolder_id=2534374302887201]

Avalanche Survival

Boyd J., Haegeli P., Abu-Laban R.B., Shuster M. and Butt J.C., 2009. Avalanche fatalities in Western Canada: A 21 year review. Canadian Medical Association Journal, 180(5): 507-511. [available at http://dx.doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.081327].

Brugger H. et al., 2007. The impact of avalanche rescue devices on survival. Resuscitation, 75: 476-483.

Haegeli P., Falk M., Brugger H., Etter H.-J., and Boyd J., under review. Avalanche survival – a comparison of Canadian and Swiss patterns.

International Commission for Alpine Rescue, 2006. Time is Life. Medical Training in Avalanche Rescue. A comprehensive training DVD for the medical response protocols for avalanche rescue [available for sale from http://www.avalanche.ca/cac/store/dvds].

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Case studies

Jamieson, J.B., Haegeli, P., and Gauthier, D., 2010. Avalanche accident in Canada Volume 5: 1996-2007. Canadian Avalanche Association, Revelstoke BC.

Jamieson J.B. and Geldsetzer T., 1996. Avalanche Accidents in Canada Volume 4: 1984-1996. Canadian Avalanche Association, Revelstoke BC.

FILE VERSION

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Mountain travel is dangerous and can involve exposure to avalanches and other hazards. The advice and decision guidelines provided in this field book cannot eliminate these hazards, but they can help you understand and manage them. This field book is no substitute for training, experience, and choosing skilled and responsible travel partners.

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