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## Proceedings of International Snow Science Workshop, Grenoble-Chamonix, 7-11 October 2013: a merging of theory and practice

F. Naaim-Bouvet, Yannick Durand, R. Lambert

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# INTERNATIONAL SNOW SCIENCE WORKSHOP

Grenoble Chamonix-Mont-Blanc FRANCE  
October 7-11, 2013

«A merging of theory and practice»



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## **International Snow Science Workshop 2013**

**October, 2013 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>**

### **Proceedings**

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and Richard Lambert

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## INFORMATION

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### General

Welcome to the searchable portion of the Proceedings USB drive for the International Snow Science Workshop, held in Grenoble Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, France, 7-11 October 2013.

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## PREFACE

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The ISSW aims to bring together experts in the field of snow and avalanche science to encourage the transfer of scientific studies to practitioners, mountain professionals and consultants, and to stimulate further research based on the experience and questions of these snow professionals. These two-way exchanges have been a large part of the success of this meeting for over 35 years in North America.

After the success of the first European version of ISSW, held in Davos, Switzerland in 2009, and to continue a European version, France applied to organize the workshop in 2013. ANENA (French Association for Snow and Avalanche Study), IRSTEA (Snow Avalanche Engineering and Torrent Control, Research Unit) and Météo-France (Snow Study Center), the main scientific groups involved in avalanche forecasting and prevention in France, have naturally joined together to organize this second European meeting.

This second encounter triggered a great deal of interest: 360 abstracts were accepted. Approximately 600 people, 40% researchers and 60% practitioners from 30 countries, were registered. The motto of all past ISSWs – Merging theory and practice – remains current and relevant.

Due to the large number of abstracts received, we had to shorten the time for oral presentations to 15 minutes to allow more speakers to introduce their work. During the week 111 speakers made presentations. Posters also occupied a central place in the conference and were on display for most of the conference. Approximately 75% of the presenters submitted a summary of their contribution for a total of 269 papers in the proceedings.

The balance between theory and practice is also found in the topics proposed by the international Program Advisory Board and the Scientific and Technical Committee: global snow properties and their spatial variability; blowing and drifting snow; avalanche danger forecasting; guiding in avalanche terrain and snow stability evaluation; modern forms of communicating avalanche danger; avalanche education; avalanche dynamics and hazard mapping; avalanche protection, artificial release and mitigation strategies; instrumentation, monitoring and remote sensing; crisis management, avalanche accidents and rescue; managing snow (grooming, snow removal and preservation); impact of climate change; snow hydrology and ecology.

The subjects attracting the greatest number of contributions, not surprisingly, are avalanche danger forecasting; avalanche dynamics and hazard mapping; avalanche protection, artificial release and mitigation strategies; and instrumentation, monitoring and remote sensing. This confirms the initial impression of the first European version. European ISSW is not a copy of traditional ISSW but has developed its own characteristics. Indeed, such topics are more particularly relevant and of vital interest in Europe where mountain areas are densely populated. Avalanches pose varying degrees of risk to land use, infrastructure, and personal safety in many mountain regions.

New topics such as managing snow and a forum on new technology were proposed. Let us hope that these sessions continue and develop further in the years to come.



## International Snow Science Workshop Grenoble – Chamonix Mont-Blanc - 2013

A change of time period is stated on the themes "avalanche education" or "guiding in avalanche terrain," with an increasing number of contributions addressing human factors. At the same time, a workshop on snow and avalanche test sites was organized. Experimental sites are crucial for the development of any research methodology and activity. In this regard, an integrated network of test sites would be essential.

Papers were neither reviewed nor edited and reflect the sole opinion of the authors.

Among those who have contributed to the publication of these proceedings, we wish to thank Marion Bisiaux, Barbara Mayet, Véronique Place, Jean-Baptiste Leroy, and Matthias Gerber. We also wish to thank to the International ISSW committee for their confidence, the ISSW2013 Organizing Committee, the ISSW2013 International Program Advisory Board, and the ISSW2013 Scientific and Technical Committee who supported us during the preparatory phase. We are also grateful to all our sponsors, exhibitors, and local authorities for their considerable assistance. Your presence was the best award for all the organizers who labored for two years and did their best so that your stay in Grenoble and Chamonix would be profitable and pleasurable with fruitful exchanges, discussions and meetings as well as stimulating field trips.

Our common passion, snow, reminds us of the importance of its dangers and the need to mitigate them through our common work and experiences while keeping in mind the numerous victims. ISSW helps us in this task and these proceedings are our shared contribution.

This ISSW2013 proceedings booklet will supplement your memories of this workshop, which we were very proud to organize.

We look forward to the next European ISSW – hopefully in four years' time. We remind you that the next ISSW will be held in Banff (Alberta, Canada), September 29 to October 3, 2014.

Florence Naaim, Yves Durand and Richard Lambert

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# CONTENTS

---

## Global snow properties and their spatial variability

O2-01	<b>Uncut Column Stability Tests for Hard Slab Snow Climates</b> Wesley FARNSWORTH, Markus ECKERSTORFER	.....1
O2-02	<b>On how to measure snow mechanical properties relevant to slab avalanche release</b> Benjamin REUTER, Martin PROKSCH, Henning LÖWE, Alec VAN HERWIJNEN, Jürg SCHWEIZER	.....7
O2-03	<b>Weak-layer spatial variability as a possible trigger of slab tensile failure</b> Johan GAUME, Guillaume CHAMBON, Nicolas ECKERT, Mohamed NAAIM	.....12
O4-01	<b>Spatial predictions of surface hoar and crust formation</b> Simon HORTON, Michael SCHIRMER, Bruce JAMIESON	.....17
O4-05	<b>Effect of high elevation birch forest on snow stability</b> Hedda BREIEN, Øyvind HØYDAL	.....23
O4-06	<b>A multi-dimensional water transport model to reproduce the preferential flow in a snowpack</b> Hirashima HIROYUKI, Yamaguchi SATORU, Takafumi KATSUSHIMA	.....31
O4-07	<b>SNOWGRID - A new operational snow cover model in Austria</b> Marc OLEFS, Wolfgang SCHÖNER, Martin SUKLITSCH, Christoph WITTMANN, Bernd NIEDERMOSER, Alfred NEURURER, Arnulf WURZER	.....38
P4-03	<b>Tracking melt-freeze crust evolution in Val d'Aran (Catalan Pyrenees)</b> Jon APODAKA-SARATXO, Montserrat BACARDIT, Ivan MONER, Jordi GAVALDÀ	.....46
P4-05	<b>Small-scale meteorological conditions at an avalanche slope</b> Reinhard FROMM, Friedrich OBLEITNER, Thomas GIGELE	.....48
P4-06	<b>On modeling the formation and survival of surface hoar in complex terrain</b> Nora HELBIG, Alec VAN HERWIJNEN	.....52
P4-07	<b>The effect of spatial variations of snowpack properties on snow slope stability: A mechanically-based statistical approach</b> Johan GAUME, Jürg SCHWEIZER, Alec van HERWIJNEN, Guillaume CHAMBON, Nicolas ECKERT, Mohamed NAAIM	.....57
P4-08	<b>Linking weather conditions to snow property variations</b> Benjamin REUTER, Jürg SCHWEIZER	.....61
P4-11	<b>Physical and isotopic characteristics of snowpack in NW Slovenia</b> Jaka ORTAR, Manca VOLK, Miha PAVŠEK, Iztok SINJUR, Gregor VERTAČNIK, Mihael BRENČIČ, Dušan POLAJNAR, Sergey A. SOKRATOV, Polona VREČA	.....65
P4-13	<b>Can a point measurement represent the snow depth in its vicinity? A comparison of areal snow depth measurements with selected index sites</b> Thomas GRÜNEWALD, Michael LEHNING	.....69



P4-16	<b>Investigation of adsorbent for a measurement of snow specific surface area by the gas-adsorption method</b> Akihiro HACHIKUBO, Satoru YAMAGUCHI, Hayato ARAKAWA, Tomonori TANIKAWA, Masahiro HORI, Konosuke SUGIURA, Masashi NIWANO, Katsuyuki KUCHIKI, Teruo AOKI	.....73
P4-17	<b>Comparison of a snowpack on a slope and level ground by focusing on the effect of water infiltration</b> Shinji IKEDA, Takafumi KATSUSHIMA, Yasuhiko ITO, Hiroki MATSUSHITA, Yukari TAKEUCHI, Kazuya AKIYAMA	.....78
P4-19	<b>Digital flow for grain segmentation from 3D microtomographic images of snow</b> Xi WANG, Frédéric FLIN, David COEURJOLLY, Bernard LESAFFRE	.....83
P4-22	<b>Description of the snow microstructure as a 3D assembly of snow grains</b> Pascal HAGENMULLER, Guillaume CHAMBON, Frédéric FLIN, Xi WANG, Bernard LESAFFRE, Mohamed NAAIM	.....87

## Blowing and drifting snow

O2-04	<b>Integration of a drifting snow scheme in the French operational modelling for avalanche risk forecasting: validation over 10 years -</b> <i>Intégration d'un schéma de transport de neige par le vent dans la chaîne opérationnelle française de prévision du risque d'avalanches.</i> Gilbert GUYOMARC'H, Yves DURAND, Gérald GIRAUD, Florence NAAIM-BOUVET	.....92
O2-05	<b>Double measurements of snow depths: innovation for better management of avalanche risk in real time on the roads of Savoy (France) -</b> <i>Double mesures de hauteurs de neige : une innovation pour mieux gérer le risque d'avalanche en temps réel sur les routes de Savoie (France)</i> Gaëlle BOURGEOIS, Alain DUCLOS, Stéphane CAFFO	.....99
O2-06	<b>Intermittent drifting snow - combining experimental and model studies</b> Stefan HORENDER, Christine GROOT ZWAFTINK, Beni WALTER, Michael LEHNING	.....104
P2-60	<b>A comparison of terrain-based parameter, wind-field modeling and TLS snow depth data for snow drift modeling</b> Alexander PROKOP, Peter SCHOEN, Vincent VIONNET, Florence NAAIM-BOUVET, Gilbert GUYOMARC'H, Yves DURAND, Hervé BELLOT, Florian SINGER, Kouichi NISHIMURA	.....108
P2-62	<b>Wind tunnel blowing snow study: steady and unsteady properties of wind velocity, mass fluxes and mass exchanges</b> Mohamed NAAIM, Florence NAAIM-BOUVET, Kouichi NISHIMURA, Osamu ABE, Yoichi ITO, Masaki NEMOTO, Kenji KOSUGI	.....114
P2-64	<b>Simulation of blowing snow in Antarctica</b> Hubert GALLÉE, Alexandre TROUVILLIEZ, Charles AMORY, Cécile AGOSTA, Christophe GENTHON, Xavier FETTWEIS, Vincent FAVIER, Florence NAAIM-BOUVET	.....120
P2-65	<b>Preliminary measurements and surveys of snowdrift at the Seehore avalanche test site - Aosta Valley (IT)</b> Margherita MAGGIONI, Nathalie DURAND, Barbara FRIGO, Orzso PALLARA, Michele FREPPAZ, Paola DELLAVEDOVA, Valerio SEGOR, Florence NAAIM-BOUVET, Hervé BELLOT	.....126

P2-66	<b>Technical handbook “Wind drift control structures in mountainous areas”- <i>Guide technique "Ouvrages à vent en zone de montagne"</i></b> Florence NAAIM-BOUVET, Michel TRUCHE	.....134
P2-67	<b>Size distribution, Schmidt number and terminal velocity of blowing snow particles in the French Alps : comparison with previous studies</b> Florence NAAIM-BOUVET, Hervé BELLOT, Mohamed NAAIM, Kouichi NISHIMURA	.....140
P2-68	<b>Snow particle speeds in blowing snow</b> Kouichi NISHIMURA, Chika YOKOYAMA, Yoichi ITO, Masaki NEMOTO, Florence NAAIM-BOUVET, Herve BELLOT, Koji FUJITA	.....147

## Avalanche hazard forecasting

O1-01	<b>On estimating avalanche danger from simulated snow profiles</b> Sascha BELLAIRE, Bruce JAMIESON	.....154
O1-02	<b>Towards a new chain of models for avalanche hazard forecasting in French mountain ranges, including low altitude mountains</b> Matthieu LAFAYASSE, Samuel MORIN, Cécile COLÉOU, Matthieu VERNAY, Damien SERÇA, François BESSON, Jean-Marie WILLEMET, Gérald GIRAUD, Yves DURAND	.....162
O1-03	<b>SNOWPACK: where do we stand today?</b> Charles FIERZ, Mathias BAVAY, Nander WEVER, Michael LEHNING	.....166
O1-04	<b>Verification of SNOWPACK model in the Western Caucasus, Russia, for spatial assessment of snow cover stability</b> Elena KLIMENKO	.....170
O1-05	<b>Identification of slushflow situations from regional weather models</b> Christian JAEDICKE, Øyvind ARMAND-HØYDAL, Knut Helge MIDTBØ	.....177
O4-08	<b>Evaluation of an avalanche triggered by a local earthquake at the Vallée de la Sionne (Switzerland) experimental site</b> Cristina PÉREZ-GUILLÉN, Mar TAPIA, Emma SURIÑACH, Glòria FURDADA, Martin HILLER	.....183
O4-09	<b>Understanding the "true" predictive power of statistical avalanche forecasting</b> Jordy HENDRIKX, Matt MURPHY	.....191
O4-10	<b>Can near real-time avalanche occurrence data improve avalanche forecasting?</b> Jürg SCHWEIZER, Alec VAN HERWIJNEN	.....195
O4-11	<b>The systematic snow cover diagnosis: A process-based approach for avalanche danger assessment</b> Georg KRONTHALER, Christoph MITTERER, Bernd ZENKE, Michael LEHNING	.....199
O4-12	<b>Avalanche danger variability in level 2 - moderate and 3 - considerable of the European danger scale following the EAWS Bavarian matrix - Experimental use of icons representing different weight and scenarios frequency in the last few winter seasons</b> Mauro VALT, Flavio BERBENNI	.....203
O4-13	<b>Avalanche Danger Patterns - A new approach to snow and avalanche analysis</b> Rudi MAIR, Patrick NAIRZ	.....209

O4-14	<b>Avalanche problems: an important part of the Norwegian forecast, and a useful tool for the users</b> Markus LANDRØ, Solveig KOSBERG, Karsten MÜLLER	.....215
P1-01	<b>Weather preceding deep slab avalanches</b> Michael CONLAN, Bruce JAMIESON	.....219
P1-02	<b>Can favourable conditions for full-depth dry-snow avalanches be identified by modelling snow? - <i>Peut-on identifier des conditions favorables au départ d'avalanches de plaques de fond en neige sèche par la modélisation de la neige ?</i></b> Gilles BRUNOT	.....227
P1-03	<b>Toward better decision tools for the management of frequent avalanches</b> Valerio SEGOR, Luca PITET, Eloïse BOVET, Paola DELLAVEDOVA, Betty SOVILLA, Walter STEINKÖGLER, Jochen VEITINGER, Margherita MAGGIONI, Igor CHIAMBRETTI, Maria Cristina PROLA	.....230
P1-04	<b>Winter types and snow avalanche activity along the Arpaş Bâlea glacial valley - Făgăraş massif (Southern Carpathians)</b> Mircea VOICULESCU, Alexandru ONACA, Patrik CHIROIU, Dana MICU	.....235
P1-05	<b>How big is big: Results of the avalanche size classification survey</b> Ivan MONER, Sara ORGUÉ, Jordi GAVALDÀ, Montse BACARDIT	.....242
P1-06	<b>The influence of weather on glide-snow avalanches</b> Lisa DREIER, Christoph MITTERER, Sebastian FEICK, Stephan HARVEY,	.....247
P1-07	<b>Automatic classification of manual snow profiles by snow structure</b> Frank TECHEL, Christine PIELMEIER	.....253
P1-09	<b>New tool for avalanche forecasting in Krkonoše Mountains</b> Roman JURAS, Jirka PAVLÁSEK, Jan BLAHŮT, Petr BASTA, Zbyněk KLOSE, Vítěslav MOUDRÝ, Jan BALEK	.....259
P1-10	<b>Integration of a drifting snow scheme in the French operational modelling for avalanche risk forecasting: evaluation by avalanche forecasters - <i>Intégration d'un schéma de transport dans le modèle de prévision opérationnel du risque d'avalanche français : évaluation par des révisionnistes avalanche</i></b> Daniel GOETZ, Vincent LATU, Gilbert GUYOMARC'H, Yves DURAND, Gérald GIRAUD, Jean-Marie WILLEMET	.....264
P1-11	<b>Modeling a fluid / solid transition in snow weak layers. Application to snow avalanche release</b> François LOUCHET, Alain DUCLOS, Stéphane CAFFO	.....270
P1-12	<b>NAVAL: a computer-based tool for avalanche risk scenarios definition</b> Massimiliano BARBOLINI, Francesco STEFANINI, Lisa BONOMI	.....278
P1-13	<b>The expert tool XGEO and its applications in the Norwegian avalanche forecasting service</b> Emma BARFOD, Karsten MÜLLER, Tuomo SALORANTA, Jess ANDERSEN, Nils Kristian ORTHE, Anders WARTIANIEN, Tore HUMSTAD, Steinar MYRABØ, Rune ENGESET	.....282
P1-15	<b>Single and mass avalanching. Similarity of avalanching in space</b> Pavel CHERNOUS	.....285
P1-16	<b>Avalanche Warning Service without Frontiers in the Karavanks along the Slovenian - Austrian border</b> Arnold STUDEREGGER, Arnulf WURZER, Hannes RIEDER, Andreas RIEGLER, Willi ERTL, Manca VOLK, Jaka ORTAR, Miha PAVSEK	.....292

P1-17	<b>Analysis of detected avalanches by using meteorological data of nearby monitoring stations in Ischgl, Austria</b> Lisa JÖBSTL, Arnold STUDEREGGER, Arnulf WURZER, Daniel STOCK, Richard KOSCHUH	.....297
P1-19	<b>National Avalanche Warning Service for Norway - Established 2013</b> Rune ENGESET	.....301
P1-20	<b>Report from the first operational winter of the Norwegian Avalanche Center</b> Karsten MÜLLER, Solveig KOSBERG, Markus LANDRØ, Rune ENGESET	.....311
P1-21	<b>Key to success for the Norwegian Avalanche Center: Merging of theoretical and practical knowhow</b> Solveig KOSBERG, Karsten MÜLLER, Markus LANDRØ, Ragnar EKKER, Rune ENGESET,	.....316
P1-22	<b>The Norwegian Public Roads Administration`s role as a major contributor and end user of the new Norwegian avalanche bulletin</b> Njål FARESTVEIT, Julie BJØRLIEN, Jens TVEIT	.....320
P1-24	<b>Forecasting forest avalanches: A review of winters 2011/12 - 2012/13</b> Michaela TEICH, Frank TECHEL, Peder CAVIEZEL, Peter BEBI	.....324
P1-25	<b>Formation of ice upon the snow</b> <i>Formation de glace vive sur la neige</i> Dominique VRECOURT	.....331
P1-28	<b>An operational supporting tool for assessing wet-snow avalanche danger</b> Christoph MITTERER, Frank TECHEL, Charles FIERZ, Jürg SCHWEIZER	.....334
P1-30	<b>A relative difference approach to detect potential weak layers within a snow profile</b> Fabiano MONTI, Jürg SCHWEIZER	.....339
P1-31	<b>Snow profile visualizations to highlight structural instability conditions</b> Fabiano MONTI, Jürg SCHWEIZER	.....344

## Guiding in avalanche terrain and snow stability evaluation session

O5-01	<b>Stability tests and their association with the local avalanche danger</b> Shane HALADUICK, Michael SCHIRMER, Bruce JAMIESON	.....347
O5-02	<b>Edge effects in propagation tests</b> Edward BAIR, Ron SIMENHOIS, Alec VAN HERWIJNEN, Karl BIRKELAND	.....355
O5-03	<b>Comparison of structural instability indices (Lemons), ECT and RB results</b> Igor CHIAMBRETTI, Fabiano MONTI, Mauro VALT	.....357
O5-04	<b>Bayes' beacon: avalanche prediction, competence and evidence for competence. Modelling the effect of competent and incompetent predictions of highly improbable events</b> Philip EBERT, Theoni PHOTOPOULOU	.....363
O5-05	<b>Terrain analysis of skier-triggered avalanche starting zones</b> Irene VONTOBEL, Stephan HARVEY, Ross PURVES	.....371
O5-07	<b>Better self-awareness for better decision-making: reflections on leaders' behavior - <i>Mieux se connaître pour mieux décider. Réflexions sur le comportement du leader</i></b> Sébastien ESCANDE, Rémi ENGELBRECHT	.....376

P5-01	<b>Integration of ATES into the avalanche information in Aran Valley (Central Pyrenees)</b> Jordi GAVALDÀ, Ivan MONER, Montse BACARDIT	.....381
P5-02	<b>A proposed practical model for zoning with the Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale</b> Cam CAMPBELL, Brian GOULD	.....385
P5-04	<b>Progression in a snowy environment - <i>Progression en terrain enneigé</i></b> Paul BONHOMME, COPIL	.....392
P5-05	<b>Ash and snow, impact on the avalanche hazard of ash layers in the snowpack</b> Cédric LARCHER, Diego SEBA	.....394
P5-06	<b>Wikisnow - Interface for decision makers in snow - <i>Wikisnow-eine Schnittstelle für Entscheidungsträger im Schnee, Arlberg Österreich</i></b> Martin BERNER, Martin SCHUSTER	.....399

## Modern forms of communicating avalanche danger

O5-17	<b>The software behind the interactive display of the Swiss avalanche bulletin</b> Marc RUESCH, Andreas EGLOF, Matthias GERBER, Gerd WEISS, Kurt WINKLER	.....406
O5-18	<b>European Avalanche Warning Services (EAWS) - latest news</b> Patrick NAIRZ, Karel KRIZ	.....413
O5-19	<b>Shifting audience and the visual language of avalanche risk communication</b> Jernej BURKELJCA	.....415
O5-20	<b>Modern forms of communicating avalanche danger - A Norwegian case</b> Erik Rose JOHNSEN	.....423
O5-21	<b>Could the mediatization of the biggest avalanches help for the advancement of the accidents prevention? - <i>Les avalanches médiatiques peuvent-elles faire avancer la prévention des accidents ?</i></b> Philippe DESCAMPS	.....428
P5-32	<b>STIPP, a Spanish-French project that combines experience and technology to disseminate information on both sides of the Pyrenees in order to prevent risk situations in mountain areas</b> B. COMET, J. DUPOUY, M. AVELLANAS, S.MAYO, V. RODRIGALVAREZ, C. CISNEROS, J. COLI, M. SIERRA, R. ANGLES, D. ASIAIN, A. PONS, A. ROBERT, R. HURTADO	.....432
P5-34	<b>Swiss avalanche bulletin: automated translation with a catalogue of phrases</b> Kurt WINKLER, Martin BÄCHTOLD, Stefano GALLORINI, Ueli NIEDERER, Thomas STUCKI, Christine PIELMEIER, Gian DARMS, Lukas DÜRR, Frank TECHEL, Benjamin ZWEIFEL	.....437
P5-36	<b>How semantics and resilience from Twitter are being used to avalanche awareness risk</b> Francesco BARTOLI, Igor CHIAMBRETTI	.....442
P5-37	<b>The avalanche cadaster of the Valle d'Aosta Region (NW Italian Alps): the new born web portal</b> Andrea DEBERNARDI, Valerio SEGOR	.....446



P5-38	<b>Software tools developed for the Swiss avalanche warning service - a system overview</b> Andreas STOFFEL, Ueli NIEDERER	.....451
P5-39	<b>New technologies: what roles should be played by education and training? Feedback and examples -</b> <i>Les nouvelles technologies : quels rôles dans la sensibilisation et la formation ? Retours d'expériences et exemples concrets</i> Thierry VALLÉE, Alain DUCLOS	.....453
P5-40	<b>Using Google map application programming to communicate avalanche hazard from multiple avalanche centers</b> Bob COMEY, Carol PECK	.....456
P5-42	<b>regObs: Public database for submitting and sharing observations</b> Ragnar EKKER, Kjetil KVÆRNE, Aslak OS, Tore HUMSTAD, Anders WARTIAINEN, Vidar EIDE, Ravi Kjell HANSEN	.....461
P5-43	<b>Collecting snow measurements with Ushahidi: Arpa Piemonte experience during winter 2013</b> Roberto CREMONINI, Armando Riccardo GAETA, Erika SOLERO, Mattia FALETTI, Maria Cristina PROLA, Rocco PISPICO, Secondo BARBERO	.....466
P5-44	<b>Visualizing snow profiles</b> Matthias GERBER, Charles FIERZ, Pascal HAEGLI	.....469

## Avalanche education

O5-08	<b>Modern avalanche education: about rubber gloves and cardgames</b> Rolf WESTERHOF, Maarten HUISMAN	.....473
O5-09	<b>Risk management training in mountain guide education -</b> <i>L'enseignement de la gestion du risque dans la formation des guides de haute montagne</i> Alexis MALLON, Jean Sébastien KNOERTZER	.....475
O5-11	<b>Swedish skiers knowledge, experience and attitudes towards off-piste skiing and avalanches</b> Stefan MÅRTENSSON, Per-Olov WIKBERG, Petter PALMGREN	.....483
O5-12	<b>Decision-making on avalanche terrain. The extended 3*3 method -</b> <i>Le processus de décision dans la gestion du risque d'avalanche</i> François-Xavier CIERCO, Sébastien ESCANDE	.....486
O5-13	<b>The role of avalanche character in public avalanche safety products</b> Karl KLASSEN, Pascal HAEGELI, Grant STATHAM	.....493
O5-14	<b>Perception du risque et adoption de précautions : une étude dans le domaine de la pratique du hors-piste</b> <i>Risk perception and precautions adoption: a study in the field of out-of-bounds skiing</i> Mathilde GLETTY, Dongo Rémi KOUABENAN, Aurélie LANDRY	.....500
P5-08	<b>White Risk 2.0 - A new web-based platform for avalanche education</b> Stephan HARVEY, Samuli AEGERTER, Daniel LANDOLT	.....507
P5-09	<b>Understanding travel behaviour in avalanche terrain: a new approach</b> Jordy HENDRIKX, Jerry JOHNSON, Ellie SOUTHWORTH	.....511

P5-10	<b>Snow dangers and avalanches: prevention through the organization of a federation and the training of its instructors and members;</b> <i>La prévention des risques liés à la montagne enneigée et aux avalanches à travers la structuration d'une fédération et la formation de ses cadres et adhérents</i> Charles DAUBAS	.....516
P5-13	<b>La Chamoniarde, 40 years of avalanche risk prevention for off-piste skiers and skitourers in Chamonix;</b> <i>La Chamoniarde, 40 ans de prévention du risque d'avalanche chez les skieurs hors-piste et de randonnée à Chamonix</i> Ludovic RAVANEL, Equipe de la Chamoniarde	.....520
P5-14	<b>Ski-touring, avalanche risk and human factors;</b> <i>Ski de randonnée, risque d'avalanche et facteurs humains</i> Boris VALAT, Ludovic RAVANEL	.....524
P5-15	<b>Assessing the impact of avalanche safety training courses in Andorra (2009-2012)</b> Aina MARGALEF, Pere ESTEBAN	.....528
P5-16	<b>Know thyself -</b> <i>Connais-toi, toi-même</i> Damien HAXAIRE	.....532
P5-17	<b>Decision-making at the heart of a new offer for the practioners training in France: assessment and perspectives of the "Traces" conferences and training courses -</b> <i>La prise de décision au coeur d'une nouvelle offre de formation de pratiquants en France : bilans et perspectives des conférences et stages "Traces"</i> Sébastien ESCANDE, Antoine RATTIN, Jean-Yves FERRANDIS	.....535
P5-19	<b>Human factors in decision making on avalanche terrain</b> François-Xavier CIERCO, Frank DEBOUCK	.....541
P5-20	<b>Training (Formation) of the users and the professionals;</b> <i>Formation des pratiquants et des professionnels</i> Paul BONHOMME, COPIL	.....549
P5-21	<b>Snow and avalanche association in Spain: a merging of professional and amateur experiences</b> Glòria MARTÍ, Sara ORGUÉ, Jordi GAVALDÀ, Pere OLLER, Francesc CAROLA, Helena SERRED, Txema ARTETA	.....551
P5-22	<b>Ride Hard, Ride Safe! Val d'Isère (French Alps)</b> Henry SCHNIEWIND, Renaud LOBRY	.....554
P5-24	<b>Avalanches in nature protected areas - except of prevention and rescue, the need for education of nature protection arises (experience from the High Sudetes, Czech rep.)</b> Milena KOCIANOVA, Roman JURAS	.....560
P5-28	<b>Avalanche research, education and forecasting in Svalbard, Norway - A roadmap provided by an expert workshop in Longyearbyen, April 2013</b> Markus ECKERSTORFER, Jordy HENDRIKX, Hanne H. CHRISTIANSEN	.....562
P5-30	<b>Risk appraisal and decision making in front of avalanche risk: A pilot study with backcountry skiers</b> Andres CHAMARRO, Glòria MARTÍ, Tatiana ROVIRA, Francesc CAROLA, Jordi FERNANDEZ-CASTRO	.....567
P5-31	<b>The Canadian approach to professional avalanche training</b> Emily GRADY	.....573

## Avalanche dynamics and hazard mapping

O1-18	<b>Plume formation in powder snow avalanches</b> Perry BARTELT, Yves BÜHLER, Othmar BUSER, Christian GINZLER	.....576
O1-19	<b>Thermal energy in snow avalanches</b> Walter STEINKOGLER, Betty SOVILLA, Tobias JONAS, Michael LEHNING	.....583
O1-20	<b>Wind and snow particle distribution in powder snow cloud</b> Yoichi ITO, Kouichi NISHIMURA, Florence NAAIM-BOUVET, Hervé BELLOT, Xavier RAVANAT, Emmanuel THIBERT	.....587
O1-21	<b>Influence of summer and winter surface topography on numerical avalanche simulations</b> Margherita MAGGIONI, Eloïse BOVET, L. DREIER, Yves BÜHLER, Danilo GODONE, Perry BARTELT, Michele FREPPAZ, Bernardino CHIAIA, Valerio SEGOR	.....591
O1-22	<b>Systematic practical evaluation of snow entrainment with the avalanche simulation model SamosAT</b> Matthias GRANIG, Philipp JOERG, Jan-Thomas FISCHER	.....599
O1-23	<b>Avalanche hazard mapping plan for the Catalan Pyrenees</b> Pere OLLER, Marc JANERAS, Olga COSTA, Carles GARCÍA-SELLÉS, Elena MUNTÁN, Glòria MARTÍ, Pere MARTÍNEZ	.....604
O2-20	<b>Why don't avalanche-dynamics models of higher complexity necessarily lead to better predictions?</b> Christophe ANCEY	.....611
O2-21	<b>Impulse water waves generated by snow avalanches</b> Mohamed NAAIM	.....619
O2-22	<b>Integrating gaming technology to map avalanche hazard</b> Donna DELPARTE, Michael PETERSON, John PERKINS, Jahrain JACKSON	.....625
O2-23	<b>Validating a relationship between avalanche runout distance and frequency</b> Alexandra SINICKAS, Bruce JAMIESON	.....632
O2-24	<b>The historical investigation as a tool to improve the hazard maps: the case study of the historical avalanche of Avieil (Valle d'Aosta - Italy)</b> Simone ROVEYAZ, Andrea DEBERNARDI, Elisabetta CEAGLIO, Valerio SEGOR	.....639
O2-25	<b>Avalanche hazard mapping in Kazakhstan</b> Viktor BLAGOVECHSHENSKIY, Tamara GULYAYEVA	.....646
P2-32	<b>Qualitative analysis of the transfer of knowledge about snow avalanches in the land use planning of four territories of Europe. Qualitative analysis and conceptual map of the lines of research related to the snow avalanches and regional/spatial planning</b> Luis G. LÓPEZ-COBO	.....649
P2-34	<b>A new application for quick boundary limits of avalanche events : procedure and first validation</b> Leandro BORNAZ, Nathalie DURAND, Barbara FRIGO, Paola DELLAVEDOVA, Valerio SEGOR	.....657
P2-35	<b>Avalanche impact pressure on a plate-like obstacle</b> Emmanuel THIBERT, Thierry FAUG, Hervé BELLOT, Djebbar BAROUDI	.....663

P2-37	<b>Contribution of dendrogeomorphology in the field of avalanche hazard assessment in the French Alps</b> Romain SCHLÄPPY, Vincent JOMELLI, Nicolas ECKERT, Delphine GRANCHER, Markus STOFFEL, Christophe CORONA, Daniel BRUNSTEIN, Michael DESCHATRES, Mohamed NAAIM	.....671
P2-39	<b>When should a hazard map show the risk of small avalanches or snow gliding?</b> Stefan MARGRETH	.....679
P2-40	<b>Public authorities and risk management;</b> <i>Collectivités publiques et gestion du risque : Analyse dans son versant juridique</i> Grégory MOLLION	.....684
P2-43	<b>Extreme value analysis of design events</b> Jan-Thomas FISCHER, Leopold STEPANEK, Andreas HUBER, Reinhard FROMM, Antonia ZEIDLER, Karl KLEEMAYR	.....688
P2-44	<b>Modelling wet snow avalanche flow with a temperature dependent Coulomb friction function</b> César VERA, Perry BARTLET	.....691
P2-46	<b>Development of a simple raster-based model for gravitational mass movement processes applied to the regional assessment of forest stands with direct protective functionality</b> Andreas HUBER, Frank PERZL, Reinhard FROMM, Jan-Thomas FISCHER, Klaus KLEBINDER, Bernadette SOTIER	.....697
P2-47	<b>Winter terrain roughness as a new parameter to define size and location of avalanche release areas</b> Jochen VEITINGER, Betty SOVILLA, Ross PURVES	.....703
P2-48	<b>Features of avalanches based on aerial photograph interpretation in Japan</b> Kazuya AKIYAMA, Shinji IKEDA	.....707
P2-49	<b>Back-analysis modeling for the catastrophic avalanches in Sewell, Central Chilean Andes</b> Marc JANERAS, Pere OLLER, Rodrigo ARANCIBIA, Judit PONS, Olga COSTA, Danilo ASECIO	.....715
P2-50	<b>Characterizing major avalanche episodes in space and time in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries in the Catalan Pyrenees</b> Pere OLLER, Elena MUNTÁN, Carles GARCÈA-SELLÉS, Glòria FURDADA, Cristina BAEZA, Cecilio ANGULO	.....723
P2-51	<b>Application of empirical calculations and dynamics models for snow avalanche hazard assessment in Russia</b> Alla TURCHANINOVA	.....731
P2-52	<b>Mise à jour annuelle de la CLPA, 10 ans d'expérience... Bilan, amélioration de la procédure et perspectives...;</b> <i>CLPA annual updating, 10 years of practice... Results, process improvement and prospects...</i> Julien ROBINET, Mylène BONNEFOY	.....737
P2-54	<b>Snow avalanche hazard mapping for different frequency scenarios, the case of the Tatra Mts., Western Carpathians</b> Paweł CHRUSTEK, Marek ŚWIERK, Marek BISKUPIČ	.....745
P2-55	<b>Snow avalanches mapping – evaluation of a new approach</b> Paweł CHRUSTEK, Natalia KOLECKA, Yves BÜHLER	.....750

P2-56	<b>Mathematical modeling of slope flows entraining bottom material</b> M.E. EGLIT, A.E. YAKUBENKO	.....756
P2-57	<b>The role of slope angle, ground roughness and staunchwall strength in the formation of glide-snow avalanches in forest gaps</b> Thomas FEISTL, Peter BEBI, Perry BARTELT	.....760
P2-58	<b>Granulation of snow</b> Walter STEINKOGLER, Betty SOVILLA, Michael LEHNING	.....766
P2-59	<b>Determining avalanche modeling input parameters using terrestrial laser scanning technology</b> Alexander PROKOP, Peter SCHOEN, Florian SINGER, Gaetan PULFER, Emmanuel THIBERT, Mohamed NAAIM	.....770

## **Avalanche protection, artificial release and mitigation strategies**

O1-13	<b>Assessing weak layer failure and changes in snowpack properties due to avalanche control by explosives</b> Stephan SIMIONI, Jürg SCHWEIZER	.....775
O1-14	<b>Artificial avalanche release and the probability of triggering secondary avalanches</b> Lukas STOFFEL, Stefan MARGRETH, Jürg SCHWEIZER	.....779
O1-15	<b>Design and Construction of Snow Supporting Structures for the Milepost 151 Avalanche, Jackson, Wyoming</b> Joshua HEWES, Scott MERRY, Rand DECKER	.....783
O1-16	<b>Influence of upstream catching dam slope on powder avalanche</b> Paolo CACCAMO, Florence NAAIM-BOUVET, Thierry FAUG	.....788
O1-17	<b>Analysis of the residual risk under a national forest of protection against avalanches and measures of management;</b> <i>Analyse du risque résiduel à l'aval d'une forêt domaniale de protection contre les avalanches et mesures de gestion</i> Stéphane ROUDNITSKA, Didier CORNEVIN	.....794
O4-15	<b>Avalanche risk management in Winter 2012/13 in Monterosa Ski resort - Aosta Valley (IT)</b> Alessandro PROLA, Barbara FRIGO, , Arnaldo WELF, Nathalie DURAND, Paola DELLAVEDOVA, Valerio SEGOR	.....800
O4-16	<b>Avalanche safety in ski areas - the legal position in Austria</b> Siegfried SAUERMOSEER, Marianne FRITZ, Gebhard WALTER	.....808
O4-17	<b>Evaluation de la stabilité du manteau neigeux</b> Christian REVERBEL	.....813
O4-18	<b>Impressions from Applying ISO 31000 to an Avalanche Mitigation Projects</b> Bruce JAMIESON, Alan JONES	.....817
P1-48	<b>Reforestation against the avalanches for the protection of roads in Savoy (France);</b> <i>Reboisement paravalanche pour la protection des routes contre les coulées de neige en Savoie (France)</i> Gaëlle BOURGEOIS	.....822



P1-49	<b>Management of the avalanche risk on the secondary roads of Savoy (France); <i>Gestion du risque avalancheux sur les routes départementales de Savoie (France)</i></b> Gaëlle BOURGEOIS, Alain DUCLOS, Stéphane CAFFO	.....826
P1-50	<b>Wooden sleeves to prevent from snow creeping phenomena in Brévent <i>Mise en place de rondins contre le traitement du phénomène de reptation au Brévent, Chamonix Mt-Blanc</i></b> Fanny BOURJAILLAT, Jean-Pierre VEILLARD, Pascal GENIN, Philippe BERTHET-RAMBAUD	.....831
P1-51	<b>Avalanche barriers in the starting zone exposed to rock fall: Range of capacity and 1:1 rockfall tests with flexible snow net</b> Rico BRAENDLE, Eberhard GROENER, Stefan MARGRETH	.....836
P1-53	<b>Evolution of explosives and safety improvement in the avalanche; <i>Évolution des explosifs et amélioration de la sécurité dans le déclenchement préventif des avalanches</i></b> Vincent COSTECALDE	.....840
P1-54	<b>Cornice control by helicopter; <i>Traitement des corniches par hélicoptère</i></b> Bruno FARIZY	.....845
P1-55	<b>Avalanche risk sensitivity to physical vulnerability relations</b> Philomène FAVIER, Nicolas ECKERT, David BERTRAND, Mohamed NAAIM	.....848
P1-56	<b>Sure mining industry in Los Andes (Chile); <i>Protection de l'industrie minière dans les Andes</i></b> Pablo GALLEGUILLOS	.....854
P1-58	<b>Experiences from a heavy avalanche season 2013, caused by a weak snow layer, and leading to several road closures in Northern Norway</b> Silje HAALAND, Ole-André HELGAAS, Jeanette KVALVÅGNES	.....857
P1-59	<b>Avalanche forecasting and risk mitigation for specific objects at risk</b> Krister KRISTENSEN, Hedda BREIEN, Suzanne LACASSE	.....865
P1-60	<b>Home protection against snow avalanches and falling rocks: mixed barriers <i>Protection d'habitations contre les avalanches et les chutes de blocs : ouvrages mixtes</i></b> Julien LORENTZ, Benoit BOUTILLIER	.....871
P1-61	<b>Artificial avalanche release as a protection measure for major roads: the case study of road S.S. 21 "Colle della Maddalena" (CN, Western Italian Alps)</b> Marco VAGLIASINDI, Alex THEODULE, Margherita MAGGIONI, Elena LEVERA	.....875
P1-63	<b>Snow nets: feedback from the RTM department for the definition of maintenance instructions; <i>Filets de protection contre les avalanches : un retour d'expérience du service RTM pour la définition de consignes de maintenance</i></b> Rémy MARTIN	.....883
P1-64	<b>Improvement and tracking of helicopter avalanche triggering; <i>Optimisation et traçabilité dans le cadre d'un PIDA avec déclenchements hélicoptés</i></b> Jean-Marc NEUVILLE, Julien ABOULIN, David POULET, Bruno FARIZY, Vincent HELARY, Roland DIDIER, Xavier GALLOT-LAVALLEE	.....889
P1-65	<b>Vulnerability of a reinforced concrete wall loaded by a snow avalanche: experimental testing and FEM analysis;</b> Isabelle OUSSET, David BERTRAND, Michaël BRUN, Ali LIMAM, Mohamed NAAIM	.....892

P1-66	<b>Feedback on the site snow racks Oz-en-Oisans; <i>Retour d'expérience sur le chantier de claies paravalanches de Oz-en-Oisans</i></b> Philippe ROBIT, Nicolas VILLARD	.....900
P1-67	<b>Automatic detection of avalanches using infrasound and seismic signals</b> Andreas SCHIMMEL, Johannes HÜBL	.....904
P1-68	<b>Avalanche protection dam of Cialancier in Saint Etienne de Tinée : from 2D digital modeling to the start of the onsite work</b> Vincent SEGEL, Edith MICHEL-VILLAZ, Mathieu SCHMITT, Thierry EME, Stéphane ROUDNISKA, Mohammed NAAIM	.....909
P1-69	<b>Road network management in the context of natural hazards: a decision-aiding process based on multi-criteria decision making methods and network structural properties analysis</b> Jean-Marc TACNET, Eric MERMET, Ekaterina ZADONINA, Jean-Christophe DISSART, Michael DESCHATRES, Sylvain LABBÉ	.....912
P1-70	<b>Wet snow instabilities - Multiple approaches to lift the veil</b> Thomas WIESINGER, Martin OBERHAMMER, Johann SEIWALD, Stefan KOCH	.....920

## Instrumentation, monitoring and remote sensing session

O2-08	<b>A decade of snow water equivalent monitoring in the French Mountain ranges; <i>Le NRC : une décennie de mesures de l'équivalent en eau du manteau neigeux dans les massifs montagneux français</i></b> Frédéric GOTTARDI, Emmanuel PAQUET, Paul CARRIER, Marie-Thérèse LAVAL, Joë GAILHARD, Rémy GARÇON	.....926
O2-09	<b>CS725, an accurate sensor for the snow water equivalent and soil moisture measurements</b> Yves CHOQUETTE, Pierre DUCHARME, James ROGOZA	.....931
O2-12	<b>Comparing different MODIS snow products with distributed simulation of the snowpack in the French Alps</b> Luc CHARROIS, Marie DUMONT, Pascal SIRGUEY, Samuel MORIN, Matthieu LAFAYSSE, Fatima KARBOU	.....937
O2-14	<b>Measuring acoustic emissions in an avalanche starting zone to monitor snow stability</b> Ingrid REIWEGER, Jürg SCHWEIZER	.....942
O2-15	<b>NIVEXC: an electronic snow-pole for real-time monitoring of avalanche starting zones</b> Massimiliano BARBOLINI, Matteo BAUDONE, Francesco FERRO, Laura RICCHETTI, Francesco STEFANINI	.....945
O2-16	<b>Using time-lapse photography in avalanche research</b> Alec VAN HERWIJNEN, Nicole BERTHOD, Ron SIMENHOIS, Christoph MITTERER	.....950
O2-17	<b>Remote sensing of avalanches in northern Norway using Synthetic Aperture Radar</b> Eirik MALNES, Markus ECKERSTORFER, Yngvar LARSEN, Stian SOLBØ, Regula FRAUENFELDER, Árni JÓNSSON, Christian JAEDICKE	.....955
P2-01	<b>SnowMonit - Winner of GMES Best service challenge 2012</b> Francesco BARTOLI	.....960

P2-03	<b>Monitoring snowfall events in Lombardia, Italy, by specialized observers network and advanced remote sensing systems</b> Orietta CAZZULI, Roberto GRIMALDELLI, Lorenzo CRAVERI, Roberto CREMONINI	.....963
P2-05	<b>Challenges and benefits of continuous weather soundings on a gondola during the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships 2013 in chladming/Austria</b> Arnulf WURZER, Hannes RIEDER, Christian PEHSL, Arnold STUDEREGGER	.....967
P2-08	<b>Use of RHYTMME radar images including X Band data, to improve hourly disaggregation of SAFRAN daily precipitation analyse : Application on Mercantour and Haut-Var / Haut-Verdon</b> <i>Utilisation d'images radar RHYTMME incluant la bande X, pour améliorer la répartition horaire des précipitations journalières analysées par SAFRAN : Application au Mercantour et au Haut-Var / Haut-Verdon ;</i> Laurent MERINDOL, Yves DURAND, Béatrice FRADON, Renaud TZANOS, Samuel WESTRELIN	.....970
O2-12	<b>Planned instrumentation of snow-supporting structures in Jackson, Wyoming</b> Scott MERRY, Joshua HEWES, Rand DECKER	.....978
P2-11	<b>The employment of MODIS time series and soil temperature to monitor snow cover in the Majella National Park (Italian Central Apennines)</b> Danilo GODONE, Angela STANISCI, Giuseppe CORTI, Stefania COCCO, Michele FREPPAZ	.....983
P2-12	<b>An innovative algorithm for unmanned validation of automatic snow depth measurements</b> Silvia TERZAGO, Mattia FALETTO, Maria Cristina PROLA, Simona FRATIANNI, Roberto CREMONINI, Secondo BARBERO	.....989
P2-13	<b>Improving snow properties retrievals thermodynamic snow models and satellite remote sensing</b> Alexandre LANGLOIS, Alain ROYER	.....994
P2-14	<b>Data assimilation of multilayer snowpack on Argentière glacier, using X-band SAR data, DMRT and a detailed snowpack model</b> Xuan-Vu PHAN, Laurent FERRO-FAMIL, Michel GAY, Yves DURAND, Marie DUMONT, Samuel MORIN	.....997
P2-16	<b>Climate change: a new software to study the variations of snow images shot by web cam</b> Mauro VALT, Rosamaria SALVATORI, Paolo PLINI, Roberto SALZANO, Marco GIUSTO, Mauro MONTAGNOLI	.....1004
P2-17	<b>Drifting and blowing snow measurements : comparison between snow particle counter and a simple photoelectronic fork sensor (Wenglor)</b> Hervé BELLOT, Florence NAAIM, Luc PIARD, Cyril PALERME, C. GENTHON	.....1009
P2-19	<b>Limitations of using an infrared camera to measure snow pit-wall temperatures</b> Michael SCHIRMER, Bruce JAMIESON	.....1014
P2-20	<b>IceCube, a portable and reliable instrument for snow specific surface area measurement in the field</b> Nicolas ZUANON	.....1020
P2-21	<b>Remote and real time avalanche monitoring with Wi-Fi</b> Marek BISKUPIČ, Milan LIZUCH, Jozef RICHNAVSKÝ, Filip KYZEK, Igor ŽIAK	.....1024
P2-23	<b>The "Avalanche Detector": a new avalanche monitoring tool using distributed acoustic fibre optic sensing</b> Alexander PROKOP, Anna WIRBEL, Markus JUNGMAYR	.....1027

P2-24	<b>Towards a basic avalanche characterization based on the generated seismic signal</b> Alec VAN HERWIJNEN, Lisa DREIER, Perry BARTELT	.....1033
P2-25	<b>A simple method to study snow erosion and deposition processes in small avalanches: the straw test</b> Eloïse BOVET, Margherita MAGGIONI, Luca PITET, Bernardino CHIAIA, Michele FREPPAZ, Valerio SEGOR, Paola DELLAVEDOVA	.....1038
P2-26	<b>Field report on the implementation of a remotely controlled : Automated Terrestrial Laser Scanner</b> Thomas GIGELE, Reinhard FROMM, Marc S. ADAMS	.....1046
P2-27	<b>Testing a new shear loading apparatus for in-situ studies of weak snow layers</b> Evgeny A. PODOLSKIY, Monica BARBERO, Fabrizio BARPI, Mauro BORRI-BRUNETTO, Oronzo PALLARA, Bernardino CHIAIA, Guillaume CHAMBON, Mohamed NAAIM	.....1049
P2-28	<b>A snow stratigraphy comparison with the ramsonde and thin-blade penetrometer</b> Christopher DEVITO, Andrea TUPY, Brandon GONZALES	.....1052
P2-29	<b>Automated Terrestrial Laser Scanner measurements of small-scale snow avalanches</b> Marc S. ADAMS, Engelbert GLEIRSCHER, Thomas GIGELE, Reinhard FROMM	.....1060
P2-31	<b>The production of patents related to snow avalanches and notes for the evolution of the production of knowledge around snow avalanches in a collaborative environment</b> Luis G. LÓPEZ-COBO	.....1066
P2-33	<b>Real-time detection of natural snow avalanches by Infrasonic Array Network (IAN) on December 2012 in Valtournenche - Aosta Valley (IT)</b> Nathalie DURAND, Giacomo ULIVIERI, Emanuele MARCHETTI, Barbara FRIGO, Paola DELLAVEDOVA, M. RIPEPE, Valerio SEGOR	.....1077

## **Crisis management, avalanche accidents and rescue session**

O1-06	<b>The role of the chief of operation during a large-scale avalanche disaster - <i>Le rôle du chef des opérations sur une avalanche d'envergure</i></b> Blaise AGRESTI	.....1085
O1-07	<b>Avalanche crisis management, (not including outdoor activities) : New practical guide to the attention of mayors and local executives; <i>Gestion d'une crise avalanche, hors activités sportives</i> <i>Nouveau guide pratique à l'intention des élus et des services communaux</i></b> Océane VIBERT, François RAPIN, Jean-Pierre REQUILLART	.....1088
O1-08	<b>Avalanche rescue and mission risk in Norway 1996-2010</b> Albert LUNDE, Krister KRISTENSEN	.....1095
O4-20	<b>Avalanche terrain exposure classification for avalanche accidents in Catalan Pyrenees</b> Glòria MARTÍ, Laura TRABAL, Joan Manuel VILAPLANA, Carles GARCÍA-SELLES	.....1100
P1-08	<b>Recreational avalanche accidents in Switzerland: Trends and patterns with an emphasis on burial, rescue methods and avalanche danger</b> Frank TECHEL, Benjamin ZWEIFEL	.....1106

P1-35	<b>Crisis Management; <i>Gestion de crise</i></b> Paul BONHOMME, COPIL	.....1113
P1-36	<b>Integrated management and participative approach (participative mapping 3D) on an avalanche prone territory: How to develop a collective understanding of the vulnerability and of the organization of isolation</b> Vincent BOUDIÈRES, Amandine CREVOLIN, Pauline TEXIER	.....1116
P5-41	<b>Establishing an avalanche community and communication in Japan</b> Azusa DEGAWA, Yusuke HIROTA	.....1118
P1-41	<b>Avalanches induced by earthquake in North Tochigi prefecture on 25 February 2013</b> Hiroki MATSUSHITA, Shinji IKEDA, Yasuhiko ITO, Masaru MATSUZAWA, Hiroshi NAKAMURA	.....1122
P1-42	<b>Legal aspects of mountain accidents and forensic investigations; <i>Implications juridiques des accidents en montagne et investigations médico-légales</i></b> François PAYSANT, Frédérique FIECHTER-BOULVARD, Florian GRENIER, Virginie SCOLAN	.....1130
P1-43	<b>Wave of avalanche disasters in response to colonization: a century of statistics from the world's deadliest avalanche-prone islands</b> Evgeny A. PODOLSKIY, Kaoru IZUMI, Vladimir E. SUCHKOV, Nicolas ECKERT	.....1135
P1-44	<b>The residents' evacuations due to the avalanches risk during the winter 2012-2013 in France; <i>Les évacuations de résidents à cause du risque d'avalanches au cours de l'hiver 2012-2013 en France</i></b> François RAPIN	.....1138
P1-46	<b>Avalanche accident documentation is of fundamental importance to understand the dynamics, taking place in snow, of risky activities in order to implement the best possible prevention strategies</b> Mauro VALT, Stefano PIVOT	.....1142
P1-47	<b>An extraordinary avalanche winter in Troms, Norway: Special avalanche conditions – and the Tromdalen avalanche disaster.</b> Ragnar GLOMSETH, Tor André SKJELBAKKEN, Knut FREDRIKSEN	.....1148

## Managing snow (grooming, snow removal and preservation)

O1-11	<b>Artificial snow and its impacts in a ski resort and its mountain hydrosystem. Example of Avoriaz resort; <i>L'enneigement artificiel et ses impacts au sein d'une station de ski et de son hydrosystème de montagne. Le cas de la station d'Avoriaz</i></b> Élodie MAGNIER	.....1163
O1-12	<b>Will there (still) be snow for the upcoming winter holidays? On the conditional predictability of snow conditions several weeks to months in advance</b> Samuel MORIN, Matthieu LAFAYASSE, Cécile COLÉOU, Yves LEJEUNE	.....1171
P4-34	<b>A network-based approach for the study of criticalities in ski-resorts</b> Valerio DE BIAGI, Bernardino CHIAIA, Barbara FRIGO	.....1177
P4-36	<b>Geotechnical and ecological aspects of locating snow fields on the urbanized territory (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk)</b> Yury GENSIOROVSKY, Natalia UKHOVA, Valentina LOBKINA	.....1181

P4-37	<b>The history and evolution of track machinery used for the purpose of avalanche clean up on the Alaska railroad</b> Bruce GOUGH	.....1185
P4-38	<b>Future changes in ski resorts</b> Steward SHEPPARD	.....1191

## Impact of climate change

O5-22	<b>Adaptation of current modeled snow covers and avalanche hazards to future climate according several RCM scenarii: application to French Alps;</b> <i>Impact du changement climatique sur l'enneigement et le risque d'avalanche à partir de différents scénarii climatiques issus de modèles régionaux de climat (MRC) : application aux Alpes Françaises</i> Gérald GIRAUD, Yves DURAND, Marie ROUSSELOT, Laurent MÉRINDOL, Ingrid DOMBROWSKI-ETCHEVERS, Michel DEQUE, Hélène CASTEBRUNET	.....1194
O5-23	<b>Relationships among atmosphere-cryosphere-biosphere in a transitional glacial catchment (Sabbione Lake, North-Western Italian Alps)</b> Nicola COLOMBO, Simona FRATIANNI, Elisa GIACCONE, Luca PARO	.....1201
O5-24	<b>Trend analysis of snow water equivalent in the Alpine region</b> Christoph MARTY, Anna-Maria TILG, Tobias JONAS	.....1208
O5-25	<b>Recent changes in avalanche activity in the French Alps and their links with climatic drivers: an overview</b> Nicolas ECKERT, Aurore LAVIGNE, Hélène CASTEBRUNET, Gérald GIRAUD, Mohamed NAAIM	.....1211
O5-26	<b>Le Sappey-en-Chartreuse ski resort: how it is managed and how to take into account climate change?</b> <i>La station de ski du Sappey-en-Chartreuse : comment est-elle gérée et comment prendre en compte le changement climatique ?</i> Hubert GALLÉE, Antoine KEVORKIAN, Thierry GRENET, Pascale HUYGHE	.....1216
O5-27	<b>The 'Optimal Skiing Day': The future of ski resorts under climate change conditions</b> Jürgen SCHMUDE	.....1220
P4-41	<b>How short warm events disrupt snowcover dynamics Exemple of a polar basin - Spitsberg, 79°N</b> Éric BERNARD, Florian TOLLE, Jean Michel FRIEDT, Christelle MARLIN, Madeleine GRISELIN	.....1226
P4-44	<b>New snow cover climate monitoring indices;</b> <i>Nouveaux indicateurs de suivi climatique pour l'enneigement en montagne</i> Jean-Michel SOUBEYROUX, Sophie MARTINONI-LAPIERRE, Daniel GOETZ, Michel SCHNEIDER, Pierre ETCHEVERS, Cécile COLÉOU	.....1232
P4-46	<b>Assessing long term trends in winter conditions</b> Elena STOLL, Antonia ZEIDLER	.....1236
P4-47	<b>Wet snow avalanche activity in the Swiss Alps - trend analysis for mid-winter season</b> Christine PIELMEIER, Frank TECHEL, Christoph MARTY, Thomas STUCKI	.....1240
P4-48	<b>Climatic change in Italian Alps: analysis of snow precipitation, snow durations and avalanche activity</b> Mauro VALT, Paola CIANFARRA	.....1247

P4-49	<b>Snow climatological analysis and assessments of the extreme events in western Italian Alps</b> Simona FRATIANNI, Silvia TERZAGO, Mattia FALETTI, Federica ACQUAOTTA, Maria Cristina PROLA, Secondo BARBERO	.....1251
P4-50	<b>The avalanche climate of Glacier National Park, B.C., Canada during 1965-2011</b> Sascha BELLAIRE, Bruce JAMIESON, Grant STATHAM	.....1256
P4-51	<b>Combined temperature - precipitation winter modes and major avalanche activity in the Eastern Pyrenees</b> Carles GARCIA-SELLES, Santi MANGUAN, Glòria MARTÍ, Pere OLLER, Pere MARTINEZ	.....1264
P4-52	<b>Basic findings of the project RIMES – Avalanches</b> Antonia ZEIDLER, Paul DOBESBERGER	.....1270
P4-54	<b>Exploration of water management adaptation strategies in the context of climatic changes in the Alps using a modelling tool</b> Eve LEROY, Georges-Marie SAULNIER	.....1273

## Snow hydrology and ecology

O4-22	<b>Impact of climate versus land-use changes on snow cover in Bassiès, Pyrenees</b> Camille SZCZYPTA, Simon GASCOIN, Thomas HOUET, Pascal FANISE	.....1278
O4-25	<b>Geo-historical analysis of the interactions between forest and avalanche dynamics in a medium-high mountain: the case of the Vosges range (France);</b> <i>Analyse géohistorique des interactions entre dynamiques forestières et dynamiques des avalanches en moyenne montagne : le cas du Massif vosgien (France)</i> Florie GIACONA, Brice MARTIN	.....1282
O4-26	<b>Linking snow distribution and forest canopy characteristics by way of hemispherical photography</b> Jiri ROUBINEK, David MOESER, Tobias JONAS, Jirka PAVLÁSEK	.....1288
P4-23	<b>Operational SWE forecasts using a hybrid approach</b> Edward BAIR, Robert DAVIS, Karl RITTGER, Jeff DOZIER	.....1293
P4-25	<b>Modelling the effect of changing snow cover regimes on alpine plant species distribution in Alpine context</b> Jean-Pierre DEDIEU, Christophe RANDIN, Massimiliano ZAPPA, Stefan DULLINGER	.....1298
P4-26	<b>Spatial distribution of HBV-ETH model</b> Zbynek KLOSE, Jiri PAVLASEK, Roman JURAS, Jiri ROUBINEK	.....1304
P4-27	<b>Can we document avalanche activity by plants succession monitoring?</b> Milena KOCIÁNOVÁ, Irena ŠPATENKOVÁ, Petra ŠTASTNÁ, Jiří VÁŇA, Josef HALDA, Jana KOCOURKOVÁ, Helena ŠTURSOVÁ Roman JURAS, Alena VÍTOVÁ, Alena BARTOSOVÁ, Veronika LANGOVÁ, Jan ALTMAN	.....1307
P4-29	<b>Test and potentialities of a new numerical weather forecasting non-hydrostatic model for hydrology and snowcover simulations</b> Ingrid DOMBROWSKI-ETCHEVERS, Louis QUÉNO, Fatima KARBOU, Jean-François RIBAUD, Yves DURAND	.....1309



P4-30	<b>ESCIMO.spread - a spreadsheet-based point snow surface energy balance model to calculate hourly snow water equivalent and melt rates for historical and changing climate, v2: parameterization of inside-canopy conditions</b> Ulrich STRASSER, Thomas MARKE	.....1315
P4-31	<b>A new model for operational winter road surface conditions forecasting in Météo-France</b> Ludovic BOUILLLOUD, Odile COUDERT, Alain FOIDART	.....1321

## Workshop on snow and avalanche test sites

O4-29	<b>Blowing snow in Antarctica: 3 years of continuous observations in Adélie Land</b> Alexandre TROUVILLIEZ, Florence NAAIM-BOUVET, Christophe GENTHON, Vincent FAVIER, Luc PIARD, Hervé BELLOT, Cécile AGOSTA, Cyril PALERME, Charles AMORY	.....1327
O4-30	<b>Lac Blanc Pass : a natural wind-tunnel for studying drifting snow at 2700ma.s.l !</b> Florence NAAIM-BOUVET, Gilbert GUYOMARC'H, Hervé BELLOT, Yves DURAND, Mohamed NAAIM, Vincent VIONNET, Christophe GENTHON, Kouichi NISHIMURA, Yoichi ITO, Alexander PROKOP	.....1332
O4-31	<b>An integrated system to assess snow forces on avalanche defense structures from snow-gliding: La Tour test site - Aosta Valley (IT)</b> Valerio DE BIAGI, Monica BARBERO, Fabrizio BARPI, Mauro BORRI-BRUNETTO, E. BOVET, B. CHIAIAI, Elisabetta CEAGLIO, Michele FREPPAZ, Barbara FRIGO, Margherita MAGGIONI, Oronzo PALLARA, D. VIGLIETTI, E. ZANINI, Valerio SEGOR	.....1340
O4-32	<b>Preliminary results at the Hijiori Avalanche test site</b> Osamu ABE, Masaki NEMOTO, Kenji KOSUGI, Isao KAMIISHI	.....1346
O4-33	<b>The full-scale avalanche dynamics test site Vallée de la Sionne</b> Betty SOVILLA, Jim MC ELWAINE, Walter STEINKOGLER, Martin HILLER, Francois DUFOUR, Emma SURINACH, Cristina PEREZ GUILLEN, Jan-Thomas FISCHER, Emmanuel THIBERT, Djebbar BAROUDI	.....1350
O4-34	<b>The full-scale avalanche test site, Lautaret, France</b> Emmanuel THIBERT, Hervé BELLOT, Xavier RAVANAT, Frédéric OUSSET, Gaëtan PULFER, Mohamed NAAIM, Florence NAAIM-BOUVET, Kouichi NISHIMURA, Yoichi ITO, Djebbar BAROUDI, and others	.....1358
O4-35	<b>40 years of NGI's full-scale avalanche test site Ryggfonn</b> Peter GAUER, Krister KRISTENSEN	.....1366
O4-36	<b>The experimental snow avalanche test site at Seehore Peak in Aosta Valley (IT) : MAP3 ALCOTRA project</b> Valerio SEGOR, Luca PITET, Margherita MAGGIONI, Barbara FRIGO, Michele FREPPAZ, Bernardino CHIAIA, Eloïse BOVET, Elisabetta CEAGLIO, Paola DELLAVEDOVA, Arnoldo WELF	.....1372
O4-37	<b>Taconnaz avalanche path: pressure and velocity measurements on breaking mounds</b> Hervé BELLOT, Florence NAAIM-BOUVET, Mohamed NAAIM, Thierry FAUG, Paolo CACCAMO, Frédéric OUSSET	.....1378

## Forum on new technologies

P4-55	<b>Telemedicine backpack: Helping rescue teams to send vital sign measurements to healthcare professionals in inaccessible areas</b> Manuel AVELLANAS, Sergio MAYO, Marèa de la Vega RODRIGÁLVAREZ, Juan COLL, Modesto SIERRA, Rosana ANGLÉS, Rocio HURTADO	.....1384
P4-58	<b>Infrasound detection of avalanches, a new approach on managing avalanche risks</b> Arnold KOGELNIG, Giacomo ULIVIERI, Emanuele MARCHETTI, Samuel WYSSEN	.....1388
P4-59	<b>Evidence supporting the efficacy of Avalanche Airbags and the development of the remote Airbag Activation on Snowmobiles</b> Franz KROELL	.....1394

## Additional papers

P5-05	<b>Long-term (climatological) to short-term (intensive campaigns) field investigations of meteorological and snow conditions at the experimental site Col de Porte</b> Samuel Morin, Yves Lejeune, Jean-Michel Panel, Bernard Lesaffre, Laurent Pezard, Carlo Carmagnola, Marie Dumont, Thomas Condom, Romain Biron, Jean-Paul Laurent, and others	.....1402
P5-06	<b>Evaluation of snowmelt runoff for extreme annual snow conditions under climate change</b> Yoshihiro ASAOKA, Shunsuke KASHIWA, So KAZAMA	.....1406
P5-04	<b>Survival Chance Optimized Procedures in Rescue and How to Minimize Injuries During Excavation</b> Manuel GENSWEIN	.....1408
P2-53	<b>Retrieving avalanche basal friction law from high rate positioning of avalanches</b> Gaëtan PULFER, Mohamed NAAIM, Emmanuel THIBERT, Alvaro SORUCO	.....1418
P5-03	<b>Risk management with mandatory upper risk threshold in the world's largest mountaineering school</b> Manuel GENSWEIN, Krister KRISTENSEN	.....1425
P1-34	<b>Recommendation on how avoid Interference Issues in companion and organized avalanche rescue</b> Manuel GENSWEIN, Dale ATKINS, Joe OBAD, Emily GRADY, Marc PICHÉ, Todd GUYN, Rob WHELAN, Kjetil BRATTLIEN	.....1428
P4-10	<b>Climatological comparison of 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 snow seasons in Central and Western Spanish Pyrenees and its relationship with the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO)</b> José Antonio VADA, Javier RODRÍGUEZ-MARCOS, Samuel BUISÁN, Ismael SAN AMBROSIO	.....1437