

REPORT

SNOW AVALANCHE DAMAGES IN  
NORWAY 1983/84

by

Krister Kristensen

58810-8. December 27, 1984



## P R E F A C E

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#### INTRODUCTION

THE AVALANCHE SECTION OF THE NORWEGIAN GEOTECHNICAL INSTITUTE AFTER EACH WINTER COMPILES A SURVEY OF ACCIDENTS AND SERIOUS DAMAGE CAUSED BY SNOW AVALANCHES. MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION HAVE BEEN NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS. SOME SERIOUS ACCIDENTS ARE INVESTIGATED BY NORWEGIAN GEOTECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND REPORTED IN SEPARATE PUBLICATION.

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THE WINTER 1983/84

This winter is the first without avalanche fatalities since the forties. This probably owes to the fact that there was a comparatively low avalanche activity for the most parts of the country, something that is also reflected in the number of building damages.

In the course of the winter there were 9 avalanche occurrences where altogether 18 people were involved. Of the avalanches, 5 were probably triggered by humans, while 4 released naturally.

The persons involved belong to the following categories:  
3 road maintenance workers, 2 truck drivers, 5 bus passengers, 2 persons in a parked car, 2 hunters, 1 person in car driving on public road, 1 snowmobile driver and 2 cross-country skiers.

Of the people caught in avalanches, 5 depended on outside help to free themselves; 4 were helped by bystanders while 1 (snowmobile driver) was dug out after 3 hours burial by an organized rescue crew.

County	People		Buildings			Vehicles	
	Killed	Caught	Residence	Agricultur Cabins	Others	On public roads	Others
Finmark		5			1	1	
Hordaland		1					1
Møre og Romsdal		7		2		3	
Nordland		4				2	
Oppland		1				1	
Sogn og Fjordane					1		
Norway		18		2	2	7	1

Table 1: Snow avalanche accidents in Norway 1983/84

Winter	Killed		Winter		Buildings				Vehicles	
			People		Residence	Agriculture	Cabins	Others		
			Killed	Cought						
50/51	8		72/73	1	19	0	1	0	0	1
51/52	14		73/74	1	4	1	0	0	1	1
52/53	8		74/75	4	1	0	0	0	0	1
53/54	1		75/76	3	17	0	1	2	1	7
54/55	11		76/77	12	49	6	1	3	2	5
55/56	31		77/78	6	24	7	0	7	12	7
56/57	1		78/79	11	33	54	55	46	115	2
57/58	4		79/80	7	14	0	0	1	12	2
58/59	5		80/81	10	48	11	6	19	15	27
59/60	5		81/82	3	32	13	6	19	11	33
60/61	1		82/83	2	41	0	3	30	21	7
61/62	3		83/84	0	18	0	0	2	2	7
62/63	9									
63/64	7	Total	72/73- 83/84	60	300	92	73	129	192	163
64/65	4									
65/66	5	Average		5	25	8	6	11	16	14
66/67	6									
67/68	8									
68/69	7									
69/70	11									
70/71	3									
71/72	15									
Total										
50/51- 71/72:	167									
Average:	8									

Table 2: Snow avalanche accidents in Norway in the winters 1950/51 to 1983/84