

Davos, May 02, 2005

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Minutes of the meeting of the Working Group “Definitions for Avalanche Warning”



Date: April 26, 2005
Location: Zurich, Switzerland

Participants:

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| Thomas Stucki (TS) | SLF Davos (session leader) stucki@slf.ch |
| Benjamin Zweifel (ZW) | SLF Davos zweifel@slf.ch |
| Cécile Coléou (CC) | Météo France Grenoble cecile.coleou@meteo.fr |
| Michael Staudinger (MS) | Lawinenwarndienst Salzburg michael.staudinger@zamg.ac.at |
| Patrick Nairz (PN) | Lawinenwarndienst Tirol p.nairz@tirol.gv.at |
| Hans Konetschny (HK) | Lawinenwarnzentrale Bayern Hans.Konetschny@lfw.bayern.de |
| Enrico Filaferro (EF) | AINEVA Udine enrico.filaferro@regione.fvg.it |
| Daniele Moro (DM) | AINEVA Udine daniele.moro@regione.fvg.it |
| Christoph Oberschmied (CO) | Lawinenwarndienst Bozen christoph.oberschmied@provinz.bz.it |

Not present:

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| Jakob Rhyner (JR) | SLF Davos jrhyner@slf.ch |
| Bernd Zenke (BZ) | Lawinenwarnzentrale Bayern Bernhard.Zenke@lfw.bayern.de |
| Anselmo Cagnati (AC) | AINEVA Arraba aineva@aineva.it |

Agenda:

1. Welcome, Introduction
2. Review of danger level 5 situation in Austria
3. Discussion of some controversial definitions of terms (glossary):
 - a. Additional load: Single pedestrian = large additional load is controversial
 - b. Avalanche size: replacement of inappropriate pictures
 - c. Avalanche frequency: discuss if it should be omitted, due to lacking well founded data
 - d. English terms: are there terms inappropriately translated into English?
 - e. Further items (please inform Benjamin Zweifel, zweifel@sfl.ch before the 26 April)
4. Recommendations in avalanche bulletin: experiences winter 04/05
5. Discussion of items for the Treffen der deutschsprachigen Warndienste (11/12 May) and the Meeting of the European Warning Services (26/27 May)
6. Continuation of the Working Group „Definitions“
7. Diverse

1. Welcome, Introduction

Thomas Stucki welcomes the participants. Because Jakob Rhyner was ill, Thomas Stucki led the meeting.

2. Review of danger level 5 situation in Austria, Bayern Matrix

M. Staudinger made a short review about the situation in Austria in February 2005. For MS the situation was in a special field of the Bayern Matrix, not yet defined. He recommended all warning services to use the Bayern Matrix. For some fields in the right part of the matrix not yet defined propositions were made (see attachment). The right part (only coloured parts) of the Bayern Matrix should be adopted at the meeting in Davos (May 26/27, 2005).

MS proposed to include impact factors into the Bayern Matrix. He has the opinion that the danger level should be a function of the frequency of a danger situation. Not all participants agree to this opinion.

P. Nairz and T. Stucki proposed to write down different situations (mainly situations “between” two danger levels) and illustrate them with pictures, maps and graphics.

3. Discussion of some controversial definitions of terms (glossary)

- a. *Additional load*: add-on: single hiker or climber = large additional load **under certain conditions**
- b. *Avalanche size*: change of the image for medium avalanche, change in sluff: “small snow slide that cannot bury a person (danger of falling)” into “small snow slide that **usually** cannot bury a person (danger of falling)”, remove extra definition “*sluff*” from glossary
- c. *Avalanche frequency*: remove from glossary / further investigations to find better fitting numbers or other solutions
- d. English terms: Review possibility for Scotland
- e. Further items: no further items problematic in glossary

4. Recommendations in avalanche bulletin: experiences winter 04/05

1. No special remarks concerning the agreement of Munich 2003
2. MS wants all countries to apply recommendations in their danger scale (as defined in the definition of the danger scale, 3. and 4. column). Not all participants agree to this opinion.

Decision: Warning services can decide, if they want to have recommendations in their danger scale. If they have recommendations, all warning services should apply the same ones.

CC told that in France there are no recommendations, but they will take them into the danger scale.

5. Discussion of items for the Treffen der deutschsprachigen Warndienste (11/12 May) and the Meeting of the European Warning Services (26/27 May)

The „Treffen der deutschsprachigen Warndienste (11/12 May)“ names “Treffen der österreichischen Warndienste” and is mainly for Austrian warning services. Other German speaking warning services are welcome to participate.

The Meeting of the European Warning Services (26/27 May): see attached program (falls next week). If there are changes or proposals please contact Benjamin Zweifel (zweifel@slf.ch).

6. Continuation of the Working Group „Definitions“

Switzerland (lead Jakob Rhyner) offers the lead of the working group to an other country. All other participants are welcome to continue the lead. Proposals can be made until the meeting in Davos (May 26/27, 2005).

All participants agreed to continue in a small working group between the meetings of the European avalanche warning services.

7. Diverse

- France wants to change their code for the observers. They are welcome to compare with other countries.
- 13th Meeting of the European Avalanche Warning Services: Davos, May 26/27, 2005

Minutes of Meeting: Benjamin Zweifel, SLF Davos

Attachments:

- Bayern Matrix
- Program 13th Meeting of the European Avalanche Warning Services: Davos, May 26/27, 2005 (falls next week)