Minutes of the virtual EAWS conference 2021

Session 1

Groups discussed the biggest challenges of the avalanche warning services in the past years. They resulted in three main topics:

1) **Content of warning products**
   - Data (weather, snowpack, avalanches) and data flow
   - Exchange within and across centers, with users, with scientists
   - Forecasting level 4 and 5 situations, workflow
   - Use of danger levels in smaller areas
2) **Communication/Channels**
   - Outreach: via social media and peers, to old and new users groups (people we don't reach), do we need a new state-of-the-art of our outreach?
   - Communication: in complex situations, but also in long level2 situations, communicating danger level vs. individual slope vs. risk vs. Consequences
3) **Organization/Funding**
   - Funding of smaller centers
   - Generation change

Session 2

11:00 to 11:15 Working group funding

This working group has the goal to review possibilities for funding's for the EAWS. They concluded so far, that:

-      Real organizational structure is needed for direct founding's and donations.

- Both, Associations or European Grouping of Territorial Collaboration (EGTC) are suitable, EGTC has small advantages
- Further clarifications are necessary

11:15 to 11:30 Working group site specific services

This working group addresses the question whether EAWS should include "local" warning services and how, evaluate how EAWS danger scale is applicable in local avalanche services, clarify the difference between "regional" and "local" and establish a best practice recommendation for local services. In short, they concluded that:

- Site-specific is the better term than local
- worked on documents with definitions, which are ready to review on the next General Assembly
- put another survey to fill out: https://forms.office.com/r/a911F8LkDC

Session 3

The definitions of the working group "Matrix and Scale" have been analyzed in language specific groups with the goal of a better understanding of these terms for all EAWS members on the one hand and getting more input for the working group "Matrix and Scale" on the other hand.

Further questions or feedback are very welcome, please send to matrix@avalanches.org
Next steps:

- Incorporate feedback
- Workflow from avalanche problem to danger level
- Reviewing EAWS Matrix and Danger Scale
- Guidelines: collecting data for future research on use of contributing factors

Session 4

EAWS members underline the urgent need of a common 'danger map' on avalanches.org and with an appropriate data exchange. However, experiences from overseas show, that big efforts are needed to keep the system running. EAWS takes into account to start a working group in 2022.

Session 5

Avalanche problems 2.0:

- Definitions of the five core avalanche problems have been revised
- (1) Cornices as an avalanche problem? (2) 'No distinct avalanche problem': A panel discussion followed by a group discussion showed that this two questions are controversial
- Outlook: Assembly 2022 will include voting on version 2.0, 'cornices' and 'no distinct avalanche problem'

Session 6

Compliance to standards and recommendations

A review showed that EAWS has some shortcomings in publishing English warnings, provide easy search possibilities and promote the EAWS website.

N. Lanzanasto – fatalities on EAWS website

This is a success story. Even if some data are missing, EAWS now shows a very good overview on avalanche fatalities in Europe. So, the request for the responsible people: further fill in all available data.

M. Diggins – language group

The glossary 'snow and avalanches' provides the world's largest database on the terminology with 9 languages. Next steps: TAB will verify technical descriptions in English and later check any language issues.
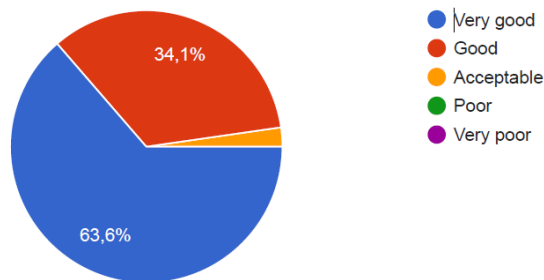
Session 7

Several warning teams presented their visions and ideas for future.

Conclusion, feedback

Many feedbacks during the conference and the results of a short survey after the conference agreed that a online format for the EAWS is very suitable and also wished for future. The Technical Advisory Board takes care of this wish and think of a future format of the EAWS meetings.

What was you overall impression of the first EAWS online conference?

44 Antworten

Do you see a benefit from online conferences and wish to continue a similar format in future additional to the bi-anual general assembly (with physical presence)?

45 Antworten