

Local and regional scale weather associated with major avalanches in Svarfaðardalur, N-Iceland

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As a pilot project in documenting avalanches in rural areas in Iceland, avalanches in the Svarfaðardalur (N-Iceland) have been mapped. An investigation of the weather associated with the avalanches of which exact dates are known indicates that quite different weather events may trigger avalanches in the same paths. There is substantial variability in both wind speed wind directions and precipitation observed prior to the avalanches. The study indicates a quite variable importance of local enhancement of severe weather and that high-resolution simulations of the weather may be necessary to assess the avalanche danger in real time.