



Avalanches in coastal towns in Iceland

S. H. Haraldsdóttir (1,2,3), E. H. Jensen (1), L. Tracy (1,4) and H. Ólafsson (1,2,5)

(1) Veðurstofa Íslands (Icelandic Meteorological Office), (2) Háskóli Íslands (University of Iceland), (3) Now at Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík (Reykjavík College), (4) Now at University of Alabama, Huntsville, Alabama, USA, (5) Now at Bergen School of Meteorology, Geophysical Institute, University of Bergen, Norway

A comprehensive graphical overview is given of all registered avalanches in the vicinity of 13 coastal towns in Iceland and the weather conditions associated with the avalanches at each location are explained and discussed. In most cases, the avalanches are preceded by strong winds and heavy precipitation in northerly winds. In such cases, the snow usually accumulates in gullies at the top of the lee slopes, while in some cases avalanches are preceded by snow accumulation when the winds blow parallel to the mountain sides. The present overview of Icelandic avalanche data in urban areas invites to a multitude of research tasks for the international community.