



## **Extreme snowfall in and near the Alps and there warning**

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Strong precipitation in form of snow on elevated altitudes occurs one or more times each winter in the alpine region. One of the most interesting winters was 1998/99, where big areas of Switzerland were affected and obtained sums of more than 5 meters of snow. Typical aspects of meteorological developments and climatology are shown. In late winter 2006 heavy snowfall with daily sums up to 60 cm occurred in the flat parts of northern Switzerland and affected mainly high populated areas. The synoptic conditions of these two examples are compared and the questions of predictability are discussed. Further important aspects concern the warnings in dangerous or even extreme weather situations. MeteoSwiss – the Swiss national weather service – warns authorities and population in such cases. Some examples of the methods used are shown. And finally the quality of these warnings over the last years is presented.