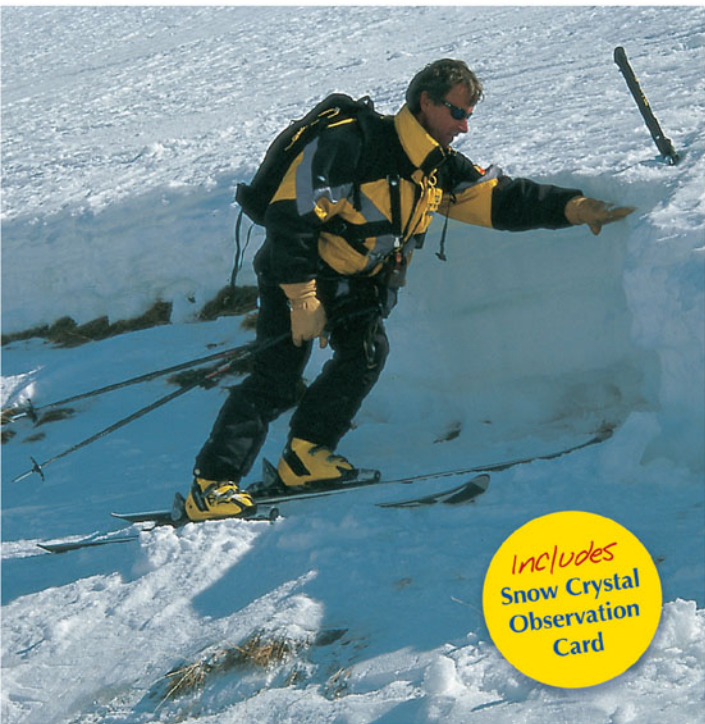


SNOW

Understanding, testing and interpreting snow conditions to make better avalanche predictions



Robert Bolognesi

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ISBN: 9781852844745

CICERONE

Guides for walkers, trekkers, mountaineers, climbers and cyclists

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Introduction

Snow has no lack of admirers. As soon as winter arrives skiers, snowboarders, climbers and hill-walkers rush to the presence of the beautiful and enigmatic White Lady. But she can be a cruel mistress: on average each winter a hundred people succumb to her fearful rages, meeting death by avalanche.

For an avalanche to occur, the terrain must be suitable. However, this is obviously not the only requirement. The instability of the snowpack is also a crucial factor, and this depends very much on the physical make-up of the snow. Unfortunately this is quite difficult to determine – not least because in the mountains the snowpack varies with both place and time. Assessing the state of the snow is therefore always challenging, but it is, nevertheless, an essential skill for anyone who wants to travel the mountains in winter and enjoy them safely.

What is snow? How is it formed? How does it change? Where and when is it dangerous? This book attempts to provide some answers to these questions. It describes the process of formation and evolution of snow, and shows practical methods of examining and analysing snow cover. It enables readers to identify the many forms which snow may take, and to assess avalanche risk more precisely and reliably.



End of extract from

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SNOW

by Robert Bolognesi

Translated by Blyth Wright

This practical guide is aimed at walkers, climbers and snowsport enthusiasts who want to acquire or improve their knowledge of snow and avalanche release. It is equally suitable for snow professionals, guides, mountaineering and snowsport instructors, and ski patrollers.

It describes the formation and evolution of snow, and shows practical methods for examining and analysing snow cover. It illustrates how to identify the many forms which snow may take and how to assess avalanche risk more precisely and reliably... It includes a system of snow observation and a handy snow crystal card for identifying crystals in the snow layer.

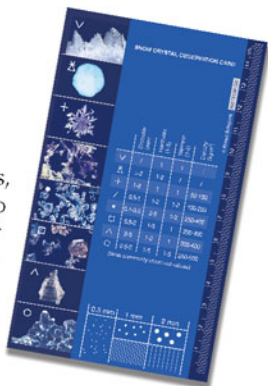
Robert Bolognesi, PhD, Polytechnic of Lausanne, is a graduate of the Institute of Alpine Geography, Grenoble, former researcher at the Swiss Federal Snow and Avalanche Research Centre, Davos, avalanche control practitioner and founder of METEORISK, specialising in the amelioration of weather-related risks.

Blyth Wright has climbed and skied extensively in the UK, the Alps and North America for over 40 years. Formerly Assistant Director of the International School of Mountaineering in Switzerland and Instructor at Glenmore Lodge National Sports Centre, since 1989 he has acted as Co-ordinator of the **sportscotland** Avalanche Information Service. Blyth has represented Scotland and the UK at many international meetings of snow and avalanche experts.

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