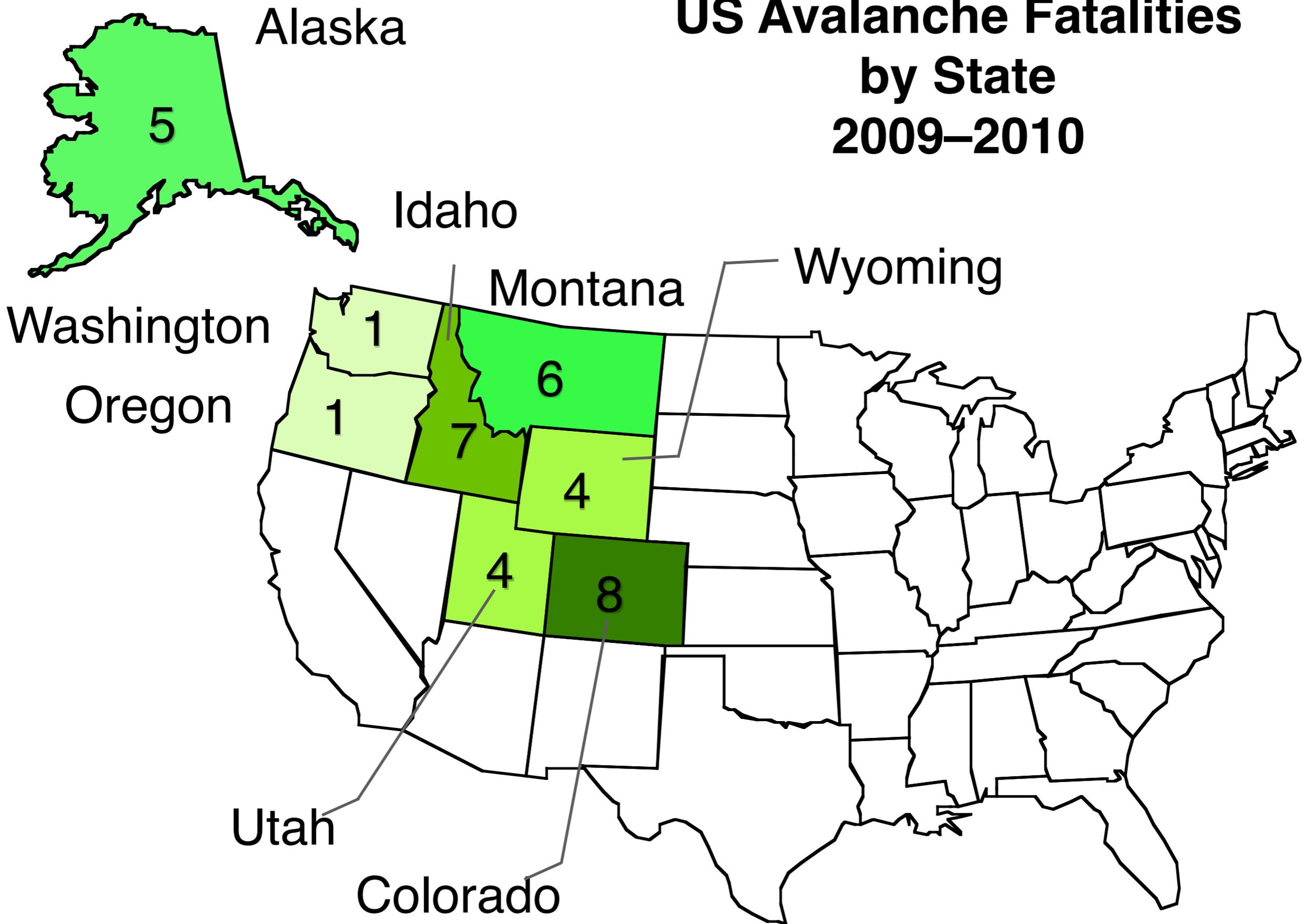


US Avalanche Accidents

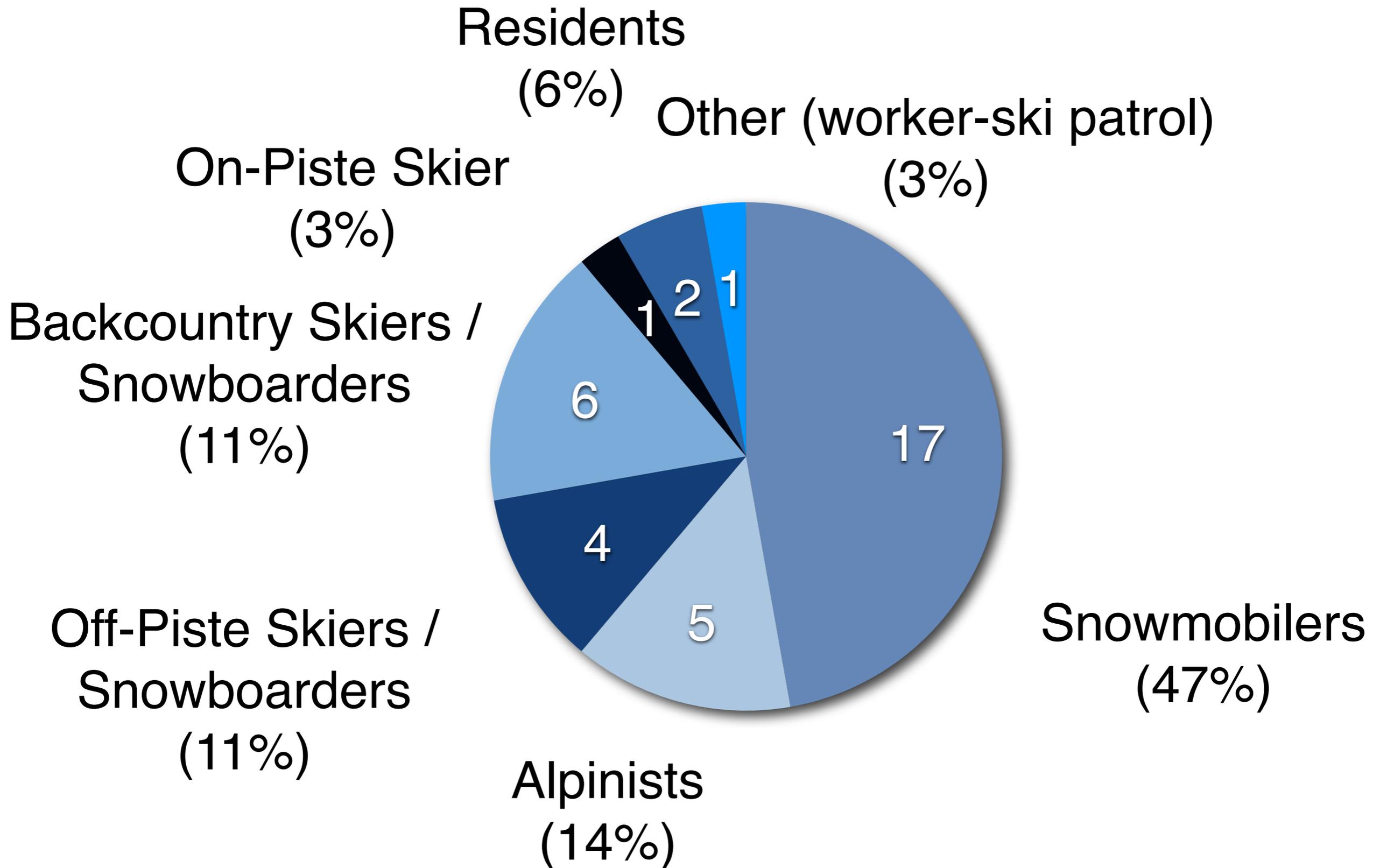
2009-2010



US Avalanche Fatalities by State 2009–2010



US Avalanche Fatalities by Activity 2009–2010



Rescue Equipment — 2009/2010

Beacons

- More and more people are wearing transceivers; however, people also seem to be taking greater risks.
- More die than survive avalanche burials.
- At least four cases where victims forgot or did not chose to carry their beacon.

Air Bags

- 2 known deployments in 2009-2010. Once snowmobiler mostly buried – to eyes, and 1 ski patroller not buried.

AvaLungs

- 4 reported *unsuccessful* uses in winter 2009-2010. Subjects could not or did not think to try and insert mouth piece. (None were buried and all survived.)

Mobile Phones

- Nearly all calls for help (911) are made after the person was uncovered, losing valuable minutes to hours.
- People often start of tour with weak/uncharged batteries.

Personal Locator Beacons (PLB)

- 3 teams received 9 rescue false alarms for same unit. Subject thought PLB was an avalanche beacon.

Experiences and Recent Trends 1999/00 to 2008/09

<i>Method</i>	<i>Found Alive</i>		<i>Found Dead</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Compani</i>	<i>Organize</i>	<i>Compani</i>	<i>Organize</i>	<i>Compani</i>	<i>Organize</i>
attached object or body	42	4	11	11	53	15
spot probe	1	4	5	11	6	15
coarse or fine probe	1	—	9	38	10	38
rescue transceiver	41	3	52	16	93	19
avalanche dog	1	—	—	32	1	32
voice	11	—	—	—	11	—
other (digging, recco)	2	—	—	4	2	4
found after a long time	—	—	—	10	—	10
n o t f o u n d , n o t	—	—	—	3	—	3
inside vehicle	1	1	—	—	1	1
inside structure	—	1	—	3	—	4
sub totals	100	13	77	13	177	146
Totals	113		211		323	

Experiences and Recent Trends 1999/00 to 2008/09

<i>Method</i>	<i>Found Alive</i>		<i>Found Dead</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Compani</i>	<i>Organize</i>	<i>Compani</i>	<i>Organize</i>	<i>Compani</i>	<i>Organize</i>
attached object or body	42	4	11	11	53	15
spot probe	1	4	5	11	6	15
coarse or fine probe	1	—	9	38	10	38
rescue transceiver	41	3	52	16	93	19
avalanche dog	1	—	—	32	1	32
voice	11	—	—	—	11	—
other (digging, recco)	2	—	—	4	2	4
found after a long time	—	—	—	10	—	10
not found, not	—	—	—	3	—	3
inside vehicle	1	1	—	—	1	1
inside structure	—	1	—	3	—	4
sub totals	100	13	77	13	177	146
Totals	113		211		323	

Experiences and Recent Trends 1999/00 to 2008/09

<i>Method</i>	<i>Found Alive</i>		<i>Found Dead</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Compani</i>	<i>Organize</i>	<i>Compani</i>	<i>Organize</i>	<i>Compani</i>	<i>Organize</i>
attached object or body	42	4	11	11	53	15
spot probe	1	4	5	11	6	15
coarse or fine probe	1	—	9	38	10	38
rescue transceiver	41	3	52	16	93	19
avalanche dog	1	—	—	32	1	32
voice	11	—	—	—	11	—
other (digging, recco)	2	—	—	4	2	4
found after a long time	—	—	—	10	—	10
n o t f o u n d , n o t	—	—	—	3	—	3
inside vehicle	1	1	—	—	1	1
inside structure	—	1	—	3	—	4
sub totals	100	13	77	13	177	146
Totals	113		211		323	

Experiences and Recent Trends

1999/00 to 2008/09

Beacons

- Mortality rate with transceivers is high: 61% for past 10 years.
- Mortality rate has increased in last 5 years from ~50% to ~67% (this year).
- Every year, several accidents involved very experienced people who forgot or did not carry their avalanche beacon.

Experiences and Recent Trends

1999/00 to 2008/09

Probe Poles

- Probe poles are still used to find about 1 in 3 buried victims. This is disappointing because rescuers are still relying on ancient and slow technology to find one-third of buried victims.

Experiences and Recent Trends 1999/00 to 2008/09

Companion and Organized Rescue Occurring Simultaneously

- Faster responses to sidecountry and backcountry mean organized rescue joining or replacing companion rescue.

Experiences and Recent Trends 1999/00 to 2008/09

Survival Times

- 2% of buried victims survived burials of 5 hours and longer, including 23 and 24 hours.
- Many rescuers, unfortunately, still switch from “rescue” to “recovery” mode whenever someone has been buried more than a couple of hours.