

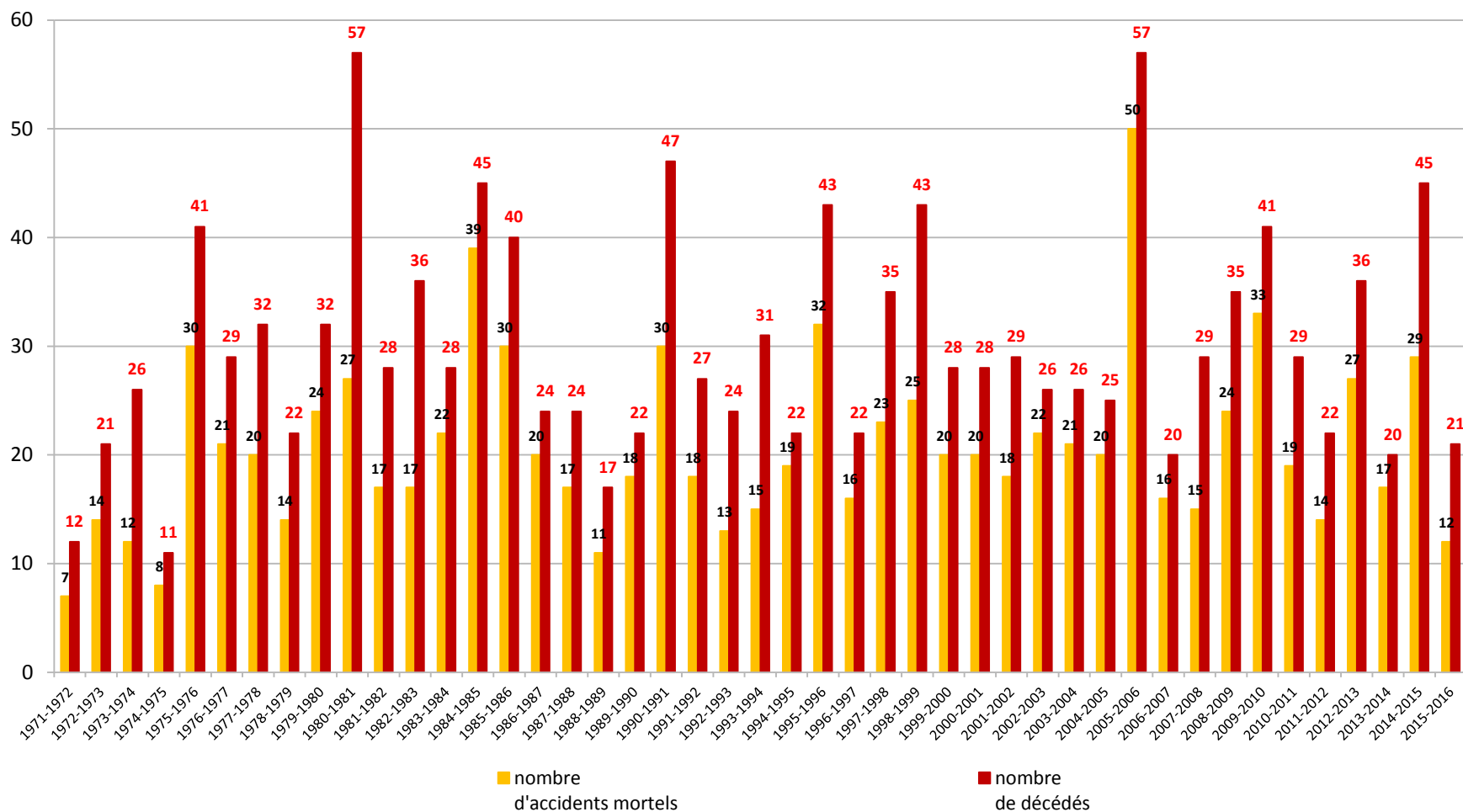
Avalanche accident in France 2015 – 2016



Avalanche accidents 2015 – 2016 – France

One of the least dramatic year since the 70's

- 107 people caught
- 12 fatal accidents (10 years average = 22)
- 21 fatalities (10 years average = 32)
- 11 skitourers
- 6 off piste skiers or snowboarders
- 4 alpinists



Some explanations to these « good » figures ?

We had:

- ✓ no real snowpack before the 3rd of January
- ✓ shallow snowpack (depth hoars) in northern high altitude slopes

- ✓ snowpack setting up during January and beginning of February
 - ⇒ Avalanche Bulletin « High » during long periods
 - ⇒ January = $\frac{1}{2}$ of the fatal accidents and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the fatalities
 - 13/01 : 3 fatalities (2 HS students) (>2200 m / north)
 - 18/01 : 6 fatalities (legionnaires) (>2200 m / north)

- ✓ spring conditions from mid-March under 2000 m / Winter conditions above

Avalanche accidents 2015 – 2016 – France

January:

- 13/01 – Les Deux Alpes ski resort
- 3 fatalities (2 HS students + 1 UA)
- closed skirun (black)
- triggered by skiers uphill
- >2200 m / north

=> media pressure (journalists already there for an event)



Avalanche accidents 2015 – 2016 – France

January:

- 18/01 – Valfrejus
- soldiers from the Foreign Legion
- too many people on the slope
- >2200 m / north

⇒ More media pressure !!!

⇒ presentation on Saturday by François Albasini.



Thank you for your attention ...

