

Avalanche forecasting in Sweden and how it is used by the public and rescuers



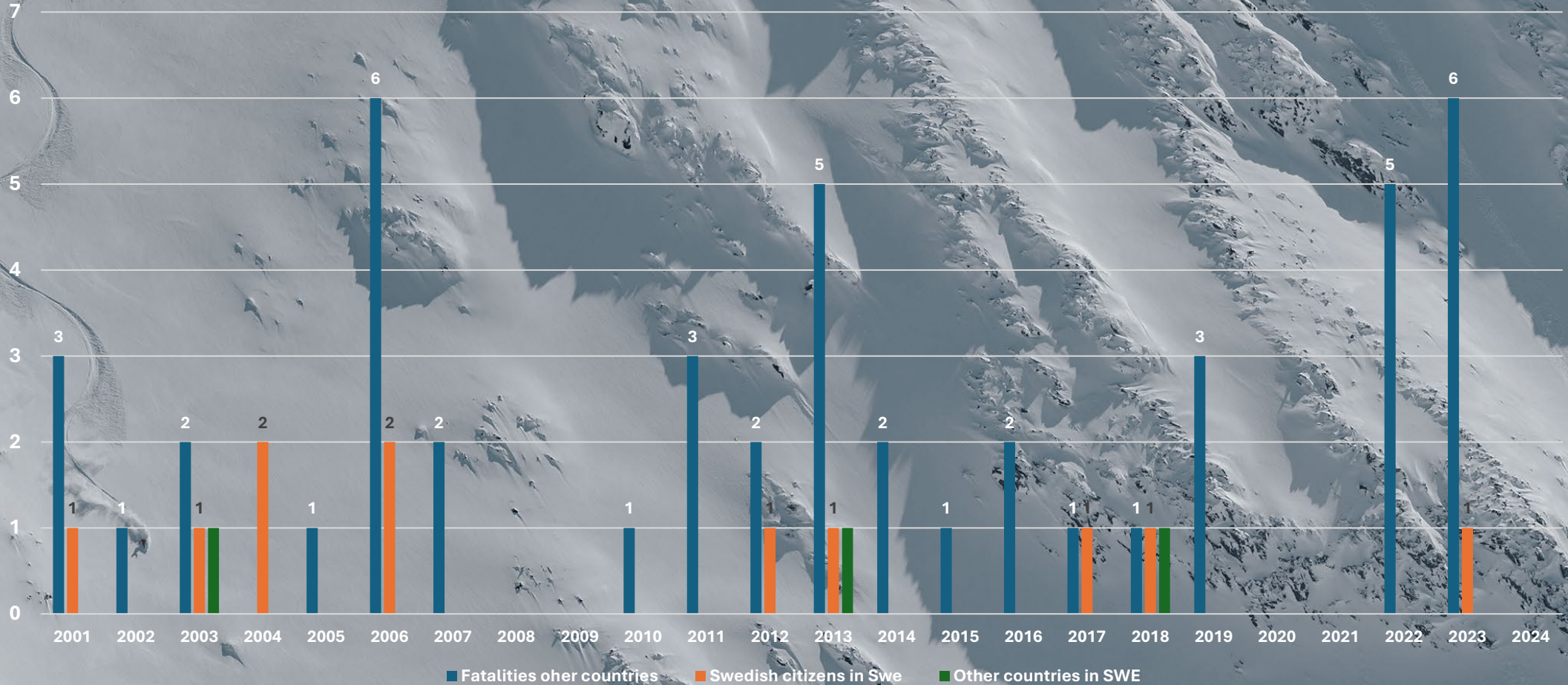
LAVINPROGNOSER

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Numbers of avalanche fatalities in Sweden vs in other countries 2001-2024

N= 62



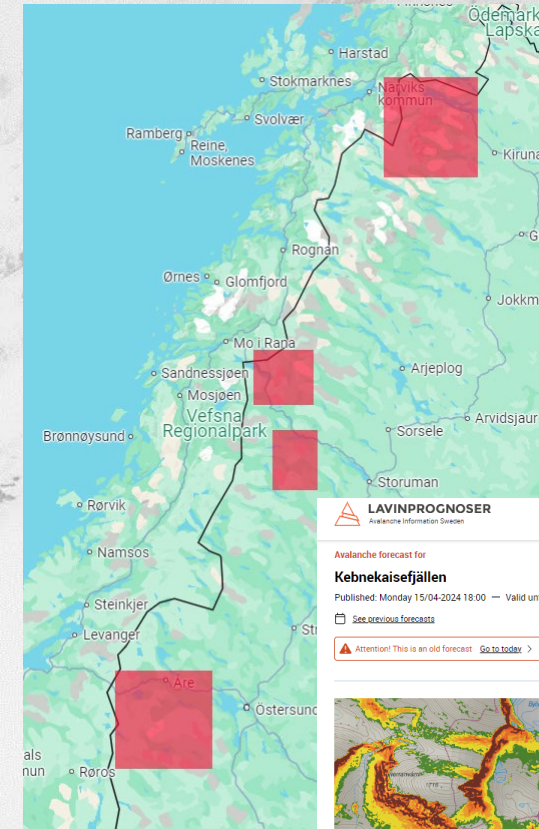
Summary: Over 90% of the fatalities occur in the Alps, Norway, or North America. Swedish skiers are clearly found all over the world and love skiing in big mountains.

About the forecasting program in Sweden

- The avalanche forecasting program with regional forecasts started up in 2016, in 2024 app. 30 % of the mountain areas are covered.
- The avalanche forecast program of today replaced the previous **local** assessments of avalanche danger at ski resorts.
- Around 30 snow & avalanche observers together with 6-8 forecasters runs the service. Season starts in mid december and run until mid may.
- Primary target audience is the public with skiers and snowmobilers, (no forecast is aimed for the roads or railways) but also valuable for mountain guides and mountain rescuers.



Avalanche forecasting areas in Sweden



A screenshot of the Lavinprognoser website. The page displays an avalanche forecast for Kebnekaisefjällen. The forecast is for a "Moderate" danger level, published on Monday 15/04-2024 18:00 and valid until Tuesday 16/04-2024 18:00. The page includes a warning that this is an old forecast and a link to go to today's forecast. Below the text is a detailed topographic map of the area, showing terrain features and avalanche paths. To the right of the map, there is a section titled "2. Moderate avalanche hazard" which provides an English summary of the current avalanche forecast, including information about the avalanche danger rating, a description of the current avalanche problems, and recommendations for terrain travel and risk management. The section also includes a "Risk management" section with advice on how to manage the risk and a "Characteristics" section describing the nature of the avalanche problem (Persistent slabs).

Example of a forecast

Avalanche forecasting and how it is used by the mountain rescuers



- The avalanche forecasts is used by the mountains rescue service as a decision and support tool for work safety issues before heading out on a rescue mission.



- But as not all the mountain area is covered with forecasts, there is a need to continue to add more areas in the coming years to cover both the need for the publics safety as well as for the rescuers.
- Several mountain rescuers are working with avalanche and snow observations in order to support the need of field information for the forecasters. This competence is of great value for the forecasts!





Evaluation of how the knowledge regarding avalanche safety has evolved within our our target groups has been done 2013, 2017 and 2021

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And also important knowledge of how the forecasts has been used has been evaluated



International Commission for Alpine Rescue

ICAR Avacom Workshop in Revelstoke 2011 was of great value for us during our establishment

Thanks ICAR for your support in order to establish our forecasting and avalanche safety program!



ICAR Avacom in Kilarney 2015