

Table 1. Classes of avalanche size by destructive potential^a

Size	Destructive potential ^a	Typical mass ^a (t)	Typical deposit volume ^b (m ³)	Typical path length ^a (m)	Typical slab height ^c (m)
1	Relatively harmless to people	<10	40-100	10	0.2-0.25
2	Could bury, injure or kill a person	10 ²	300-700	100	0.4-0.5
3	Could bury a car, destroy a small building, or break a few trees	10 ³	2,500-5,000	1000	0.75-1.0
4	Could destroy a railway car, large truck, several buildings, or a forest with an area up to 4 ha.	10 ⁴	20,000-35,000	2000	1.7-2.2
5	Largest snow avalanches known; could destroy a village or a forest of 40 ha.	10 ⁵	150,000-250,000	3000	3.3-4.4

a. McClung and Schaerer 1981, 2006, p. 322

b. Proposed by Jamieson et al. (2014)

c. After McClung (2009) and converted to slab height (measured vertically)