

## Avalanche Accidents France for the 2008-09 Season & compared to the three previous seasons

Source: Association Nationale pour l'Etude de la Neige et des Avalanches (ANENA) as of April 24 2009 for more info see <http://www.anena.org>

As I think back at this season, it seems like it has been a relatively stable season off piste even due to the large accumulations in the areas close to the border of Italy in the area where I spend much of my time, the Espace Killy. It certainly has been a great year for snow in many places. However, in France, there have been quite a few accidents and deaths as you can see from the statistics in the table below. The Northern French Alps (where most of the Henry's Avalanche Talk audience either lives or spends there time) is again by far the most affected by avalanche accidents. However simple, there are many ways to interpret these data; I will be awaiting a summary from the expert statisticians, Fred Jarry [frederic.jarry@anena.org](mailto:frederic.jarry@anena.org) from the ANENA and David George from [www.pistehors.com](http://www.pistehors.com), before I entertain any in-depth conclusions from this season's statistics (these reports come out in the summer once Fred and David have had time to analyse and reflect on the season). In the mean time, all of us at HAT encourage your feedback, comments and opinions.

**By Activity: for the 2008-09 Season in black (07-08 in blue, 06-07 in green, 05-06 in red)**

Activités	Accidents Reported	Accidents- where deaths occurred	Deaths
Randonnée (Ski Touring)	30, 22, 23, 33	12, 10, 9, 18	20, 14, 12, 21
Off-piste	29, 9, 27, 60	8, 3, 5, 24	9, 3, 5, 26
Alpinism (Mountaineering)	4, 4, 4, 5	1, 2, 2, 3	2, 12, 3, 5
Buildings/Houses	1, 0, 0, 0	0, 0, 0, 0	0, 0, 0, 0
On-piste	0, 1, 0, 3	0, 0, 0, 1	0, 0, 0, 1
Other	1, 1, 0, 5	1, 0, 0, 4	1, 0, 0, 4
<b>Total</b>	<b>65, 37, 54, 106</b>	<b>22, 15, 16, 50</b>	<b>32, 29, 20, 57</b>

### Statistics below for this season by French *département*:

**Note:** the geographic dispersion of accidents over the last few years is essentially consistent with this year's. *Savoie, Haute Savoie and Isère*, which make up the 'Northern French Alps', are consistently ahead of other departments.

départements	Accidents Reported	Accidents- where deaths occurred	Deaths
Savoie	17	8	14
Haute Savoie	15	4	6
Isère	10	2	2
Alpes-de-Haute-Provence	6	2	2
Ain	1	1	1
Alpes-Maritimes	1	1	1
Hautes-Pyrénées	1	1	1
Pyrénées-Orientales	1	1	1
Hautes-Alpes	8	2	4
Puy-de-Dôme	2	0	0
Cantal	1	0	0
Vaucluse	1	0	0
Corse	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>32</b>