

For release                      By Major A.H. Thiessen  
Nov. 29, 1939      Science Service Meteorologist

Avalanche winds! Nothing seems as harmless as the gently falling snow. Yet, when compacted by its own weight, it forms great masses that move irresistibly <sup>down</sup> mountain slopes, as frequently happens in the Alps and Himalayas and sometimes in the western United States and Canada. It is not only the snow mass or avalanche which causes destruction but also the "avalanche wind" caused by the snow mass pushing the air ahead of it. Avalanche winds have immense force, strong enough to destroy houses and bridges. Snow slides depend upon the steepness of the slope, depth and consistency of the snow and how tightly it clings to the surface of the slope.

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