



Documented avalanche accidents with ABS Avalanche Airbag System
Realised by the Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF, Davos)



	uninjured	injured	dead	unknown	Total
Number of documented accidents	212				
Number of caught people with ABS	253				
1) thereof with inflated airbags	199	22	3	2	226
not buried	98	8	0	0	106
partly buried	75	6	0	0	81
completely buried (airbag on surface)	15	4	2	0	21
completely buried (airbag not on surface)	2	0	1	0	3
degree of burial unknown	9	4	0	2	15
1a) thereof injured					21
head / cervical spine					0
torso					1
arms / legs					12
unknown (4 slightly injured, 2 contusion, 1 injured through trees place unknown, 2 place unknown)					8
1b) thereof dead					3
Persons buried from secondary avalanche and died					1
Persons died from downfall					2
1c) thereof completely buried					3
by secondary avalanche completely buried					2
by floating snow after avalanche					1
1d) thereof rescue mode					226
Self rescue					101
Companion rescue					43
Organized rescue					3
unknown					79
2) thereof with partially or not inflated airbags	15	3	7	2	27
human failure	10	2	7	2	21
a) improper back maintainance (no cartridge/handle)	2	0	2	0	4
b) no activation because of mental, physiological or mechanical reasons	6	2	5	2	15
c) intencionally not activated	2	0	0	0	2
technical malfunction	5	1	0	0	6
a) airbag not inflated	3	1	0	0	4
c) airbag partially inflated	2	0	0	0	2
Number of caught people without ABS (in same accidents)	41				
not buried	8	2	0		10
partly buried	11	0	0		11
completely buried	3	3	13	1	20

Source : Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF, Davos), www.slf.ch, August 2009