



Base from U.S. Geological Survey 1974:
Seward, 1:250,000 Quadrangle, Alaska

EXPLANATION

This map depicts areas where a potential exists for snow avalanches. The data presented have been compiled and generalized from known historical records, airphoto interpretation, and preliminary terrain analysis by the authors at scales of 1:63,360 and 1:25,000. Known and suspected avalanche activity, climatic conditions, and regional snowpack characteristics (Hackett and Santeford, 1980) were correlated with mountainous terrain (pl. 1) to produce a map of snow avalanche potential for this quadrangle. The map is not a detailed analysis of any specific area, but depicts general regions that may be subject to rapid downslope movements of snow and associated rock and vegetation debris and that include snow avalanche paths (starting zones, tracks, and runout zones).

The classification of snow avalanche potential is provisional and generalized. It should not be used in place of detailed field investigation and analysis of specific areas by qualified professionals. The classification system is based on estimated return intervals and inferred sizes of snow avalanches (Perla and Martinelli, 1975):

- HIGH TO MODERATE POTENTIAL--Areas where large snow avalanches may occur every 1-5 years.
- MODERATE TO LOW POTENTIAL--Areas where avalanches may occur every 5-100 years; areas where avalanches occur in winters of unseasonably heavy snowfall; areas where landform changes, fire, or man-induced activities could increase snow avalanche activity.
- LOW TO NIL POTENTIAL--Flat or low-lying areas with no known avalanche activity; may contain local areas of high avalanche danger.

This is a preliminary publication of the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys and as such has not received final editing and review. The author will appreciate candid comments on the accuracy of the data, and welcome suggestions that will improve the report.

REFERENCES

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- Hackett, S.W. and Santeford, H.S., in press, Avalanche zoning in Alaska: Jour. Glaciology Proceedings of Snow in Motion Scientific Symposium, Ft. Collins, August 10-17, 1979.
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MAP OF PROVISIONAL SNOW AVALANCHE POTENTIAL, SEWARD, ALASKA

by Gail Davidson & S.W. Hackett
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Graphic Map of Provisional Snow
Avalanche Potential Seward
Overlay map of field base
Plate # 2 of 2 Plates