

W153-P003

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An investigation of slab avalanches occurred at Mt. Kamihoro-kamettoku in Hokkaido on November 2007

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Slab avalanches occurred at Mt. Kamihoro-kamettoku in Hokkaido Prefecture in November 2007. The first slab avalanche occurred on the western slope of Mt. Kamihoro-kamettoku on November 13, 2007, and one person was injured. On November 23, 2007, 4 persons were killed and 8 persons were injured by a slab avalanche that occurred on the northern slope of the ridge of Mt. Kamihoro-kamettoku. Field investigations were carried out on November 17 and 25 in order to determine the avalanche characteristics and snow structures. The existence of weak layers was confirmed by pit observations. The weak layers of both the western slope and north slope avalanches consisted of depth hoar crystals.