

Survey on mountain behavior and perception of avalanche risk

Aina Margalef



Acknowledgements: L. Trapero (CENMA), M. Pons (CENMA), F. Poujarniscle (EFPEM), Ò. Santos (GRM)

INTRODUCTION

EDNA: Snow and avalanche community

It's an outreach environment on snow and avalanches.



Non – profit training space

Merge snow and weather science, practical mountain skills and rescue skills → safety tools



INTRODUCTION

ACTIONS

- Training courses level 1, level 2 and update courses
- WEB page: <http://www.iea.ad/edna>
- Periodic conferences
- Brochures and guides
- DVA Park
- Etc.



INTRODUCTION

LEVEL 1:

- Basics on snow and avalanches
- Avalanche forecast bulletin
- Basic skills on planning a route
- Safety material
- Basic rescue



INTRODUCTION

LEVEL 2:

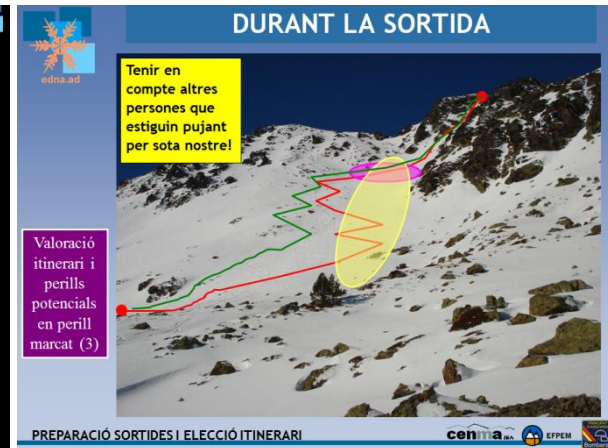
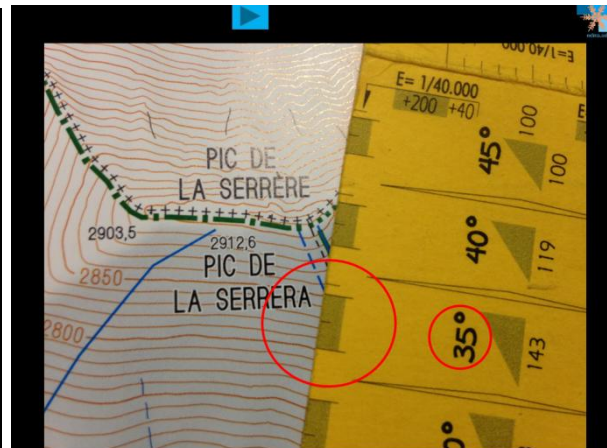
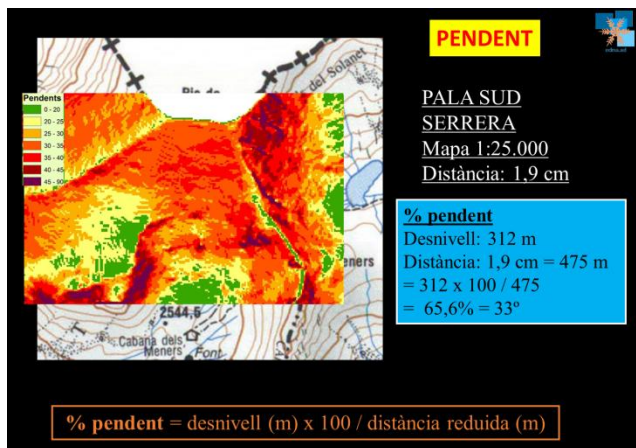
- Plan a route → weather and snow conditions, terrain
- Multiple burial search
- Organize a rescue
- First aid in the mountain



INTRODUCTION

UPDATE COURSE

- Plan a route: home and terrain
- Rescue in a real scenario
- New protocols and new rescue items



INTRODUCTION

DVA Park in Ordino - Arcalís



ÚLTIMOS REPORTAJES

ACIONAL DE ESQUÍ DE MONTAÑA Los objetivos para la próxima temporada » EVASIÓN TV: Viajando c

INICIO » NOTICIAS » DVA PARK: CURSOS DE RESCATE EN VALLNORD-ARCALÍS

DVA Park: Cursos de rescate en Vallnord-Arcalís

Publicado por: Evasion on: 20 de marzo de 2012 En: Noticias, Otros / Variado Sin Comentarios

Imprimir Correo Electrónico

Los esquiadores buscan nuevas sensaciones en la nieve. En el sector Arcalís de Vallnord, gracias a su orientación noroeste, cuenta con la mejor nieve de los Pirineos, pero también es el emplazamiento ideal para los amantes del esquí de montaña y del freeride. Para muchos, éste es el esquí y el snow en estado puro, ya que se desciende por fuera pistas de nieve no tratada. Pero también hay que asumir una serie de medidas de seguridad para disfrutar al máximo de este deporte. De ahí la creación, esta temporada, del DVA Park en colaboración con el Centro de Estudios de la Nieve y la Montaña de Andorra (CENMA), para conocer el proto

ales, el DVA
sta ha obliga
ntaña. El C

en ocho ca
ninio esqui
s meteorol
reno. El equ
ajas enterra

miten practi
aña. El equi
mento inver
en el escen
s usuarios



PREGUNTAS RESPUESTAS 218

Sección 1 de 8

Enquesta sobre hàbits en muntanya i percepció del risc d'allaus

Aquesta enquesta està dirigida a totes aquelles persones que realitzin algun tipus d'activitat a la muntanya hivernal. L'enquesta està dividida en 3 blocs: aspectes personals, percepció del risc i prevenció; i al final hi ha un últim apartat on podreu fer els comentaris que cregueu oportuns. En qualsevol moment de l'enquesta podreu tirar enrere i canviar les respostes que vulgueu.

Aquesta enquesta té diversos objectius: d'una banda, identificar els diversos col·lectius que practiquen esports d'hivern a Andorra, i d'altra banda comparar els comportaments entre les persones que han seguit algun programa de formació i les que no, per poder avaluar l'impacte d'aquestes formacions. És per això que us demanem que sigueu sincers en la resposta i que respongueu tenint en compte com actueu, i no pas com creieu que hauríeu d'actuar.

Per últim, us volem demanar que envieu l'enquesta a totes aquelles persones que cregueu que compleixen amb el perfil i que puguin estar interessades en participar-hi.

Moltes gràcies per la vostra participació!

Has realitzat algun curs sobre neu i allaus? *

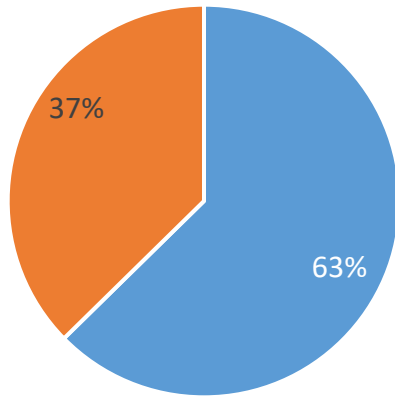
1. Sí
2. No

- Identify the several groups of winter sports practitioners in Andorra
- Compare the behaviors among people who have followed some training program and those who do not, in order to evaluate the impact of these training courses.

SAMPLE

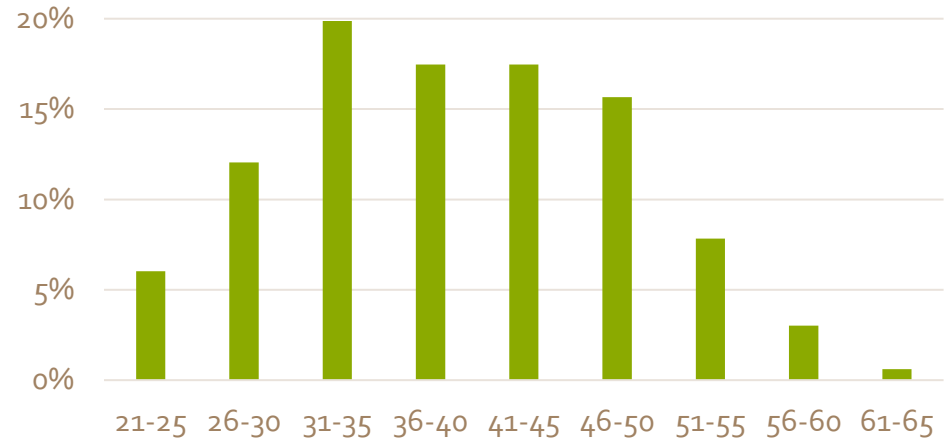
Gender

N=166

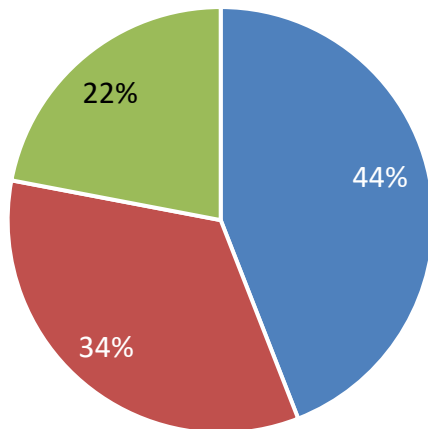


■ male ■ female

Age

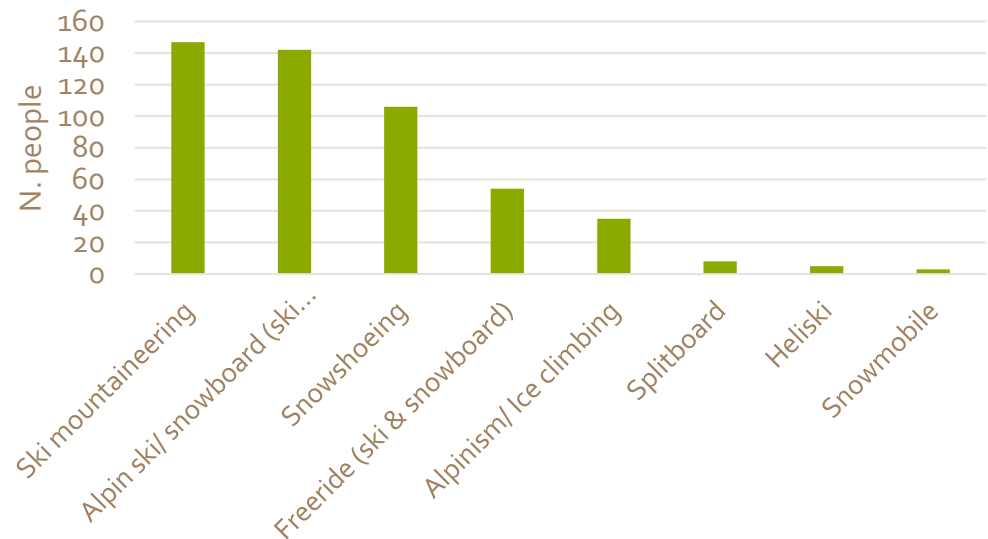


Training level



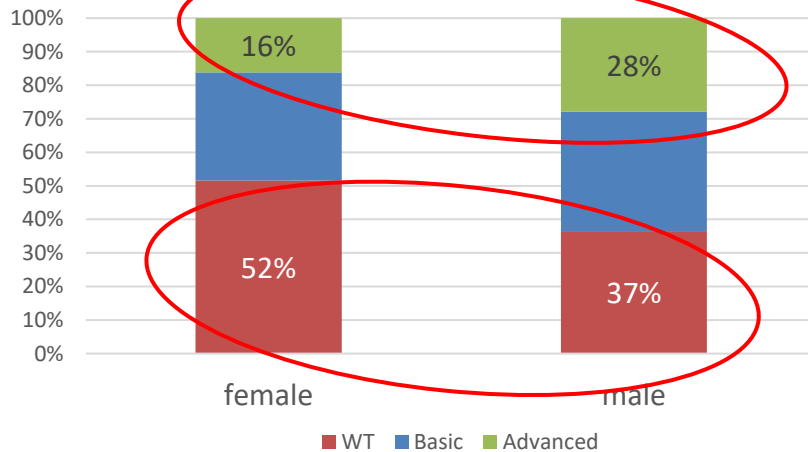
■ WF ■ Basic ■ Advanced

Activities

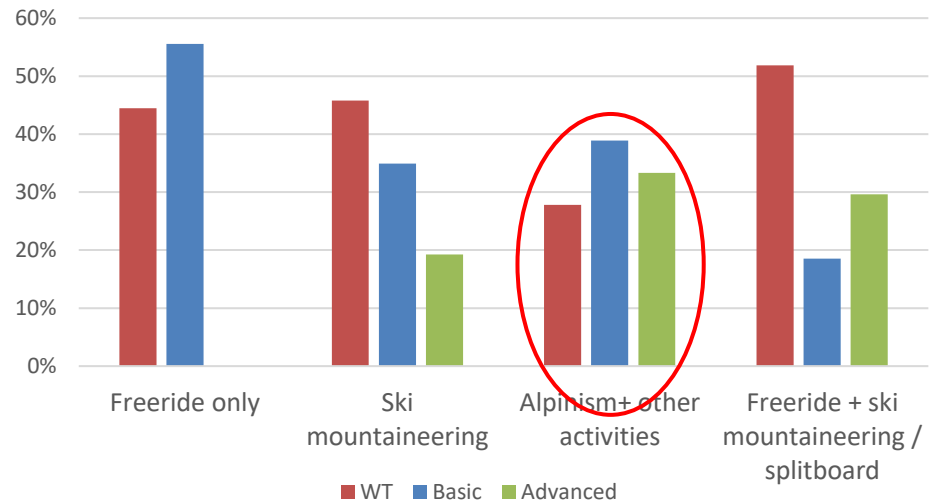


TRAINING

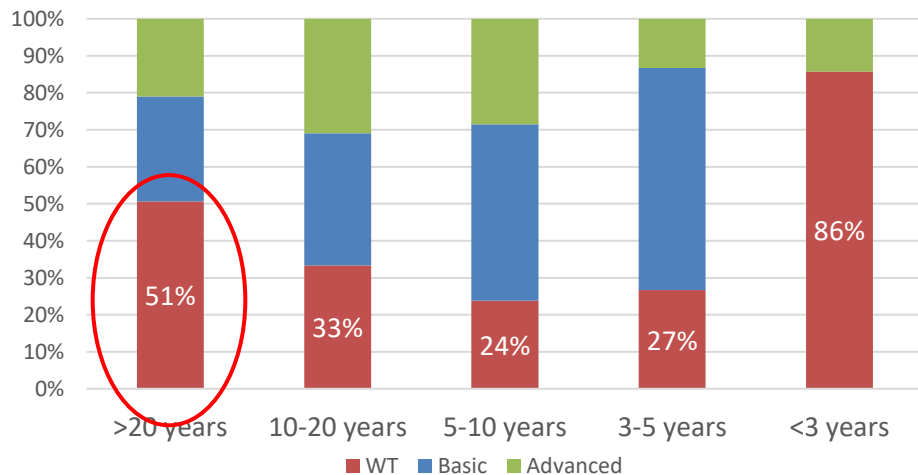
Gender



Activities



Experience



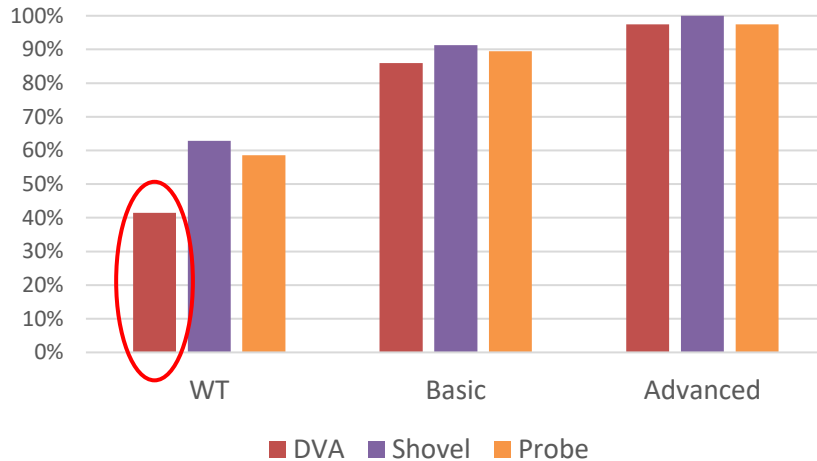
No relation observed between:

Training level – Age

Training level - Frequency

EQUIPMENT

Rescue equipment



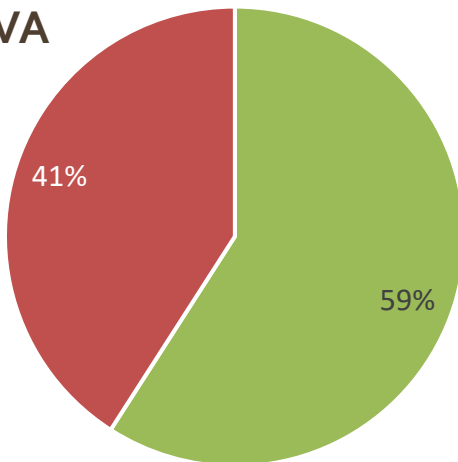
No relation observed between:

Rescue equipment – Age

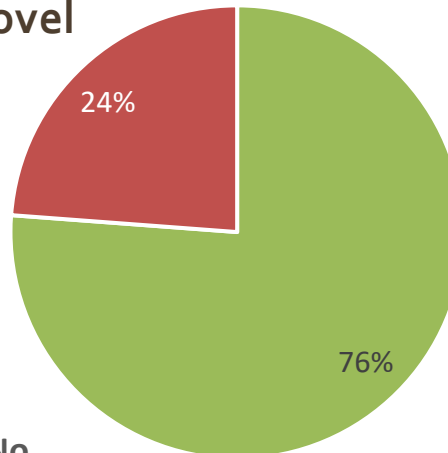
Rescue equipment - Frequency

Rescue equipment – Years of experience

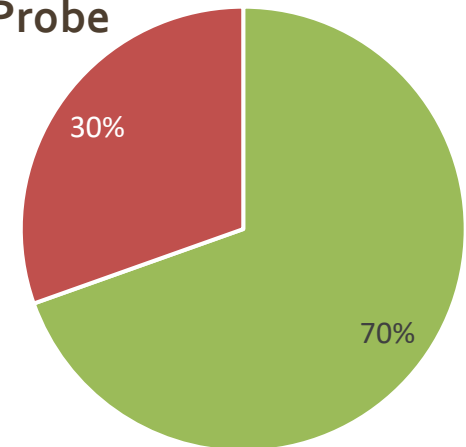
DVA



Shovel



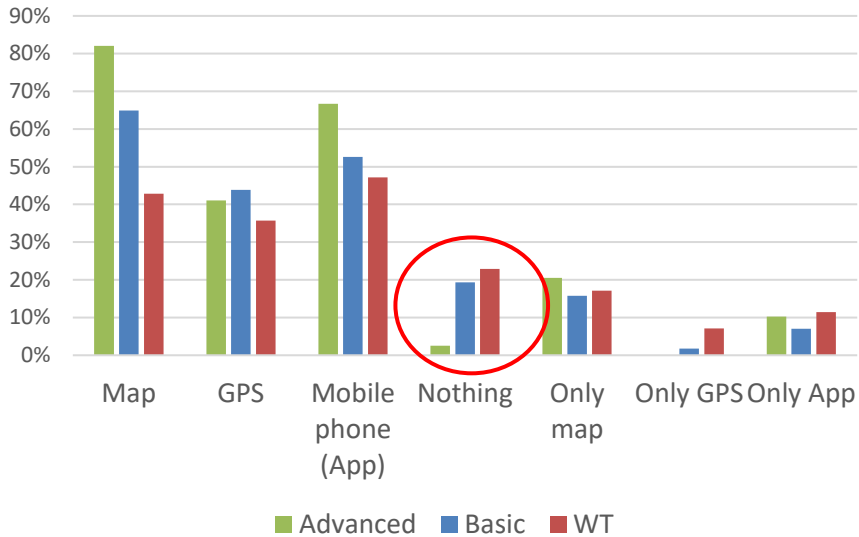
Probe



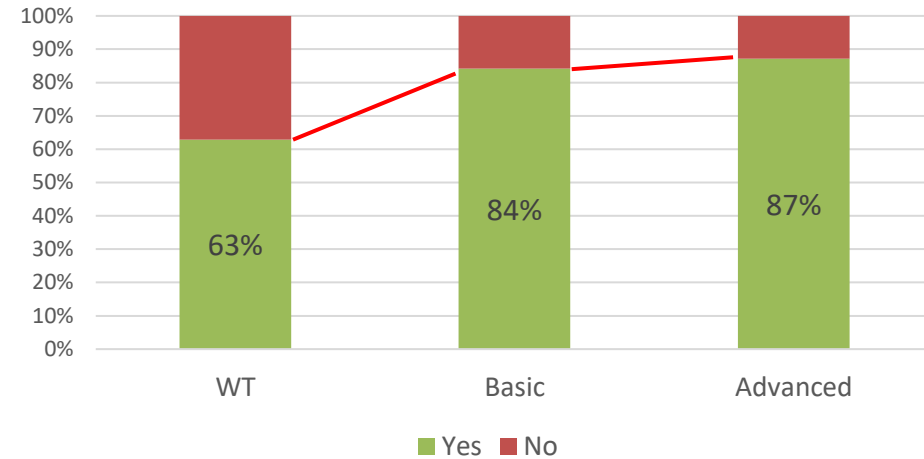
■ Yes ■ No

PREPARING THE TRIP

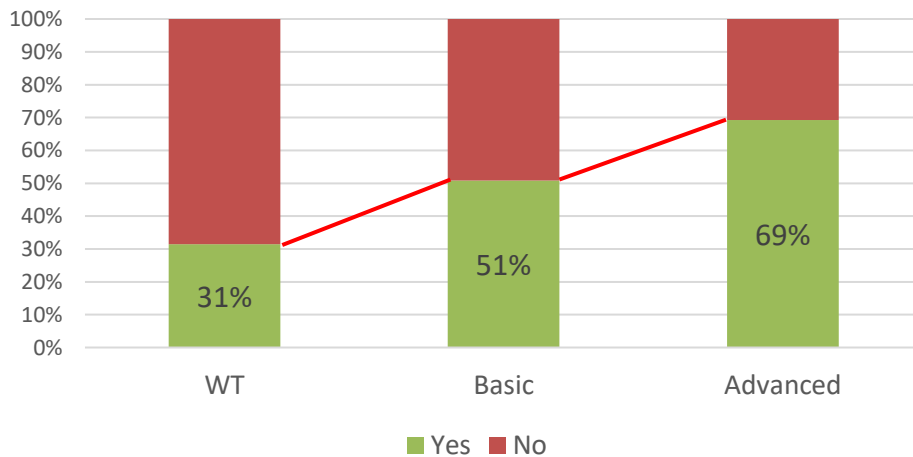
Cartographic tools



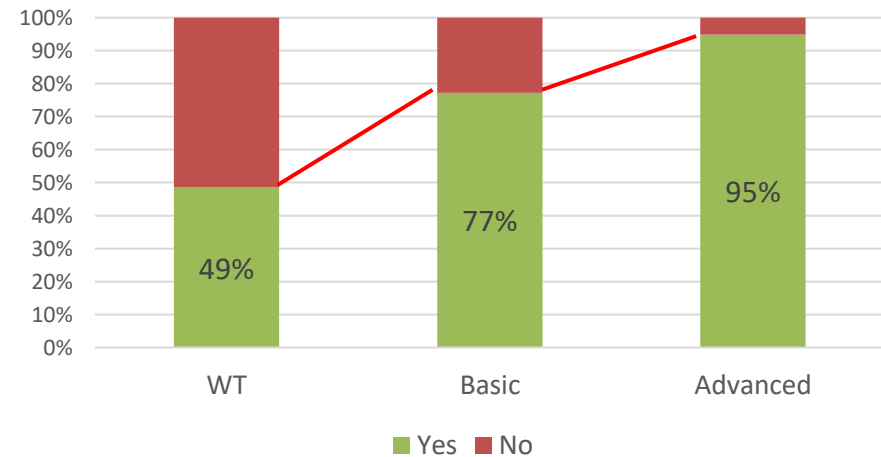
Avalanche forecast



Rescue practice

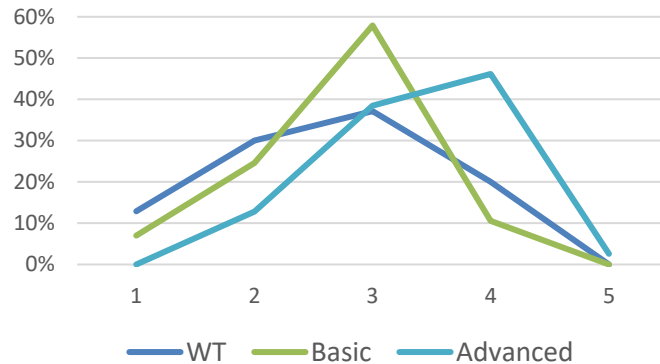


Organizing avalanche rescue



PERCEPTION

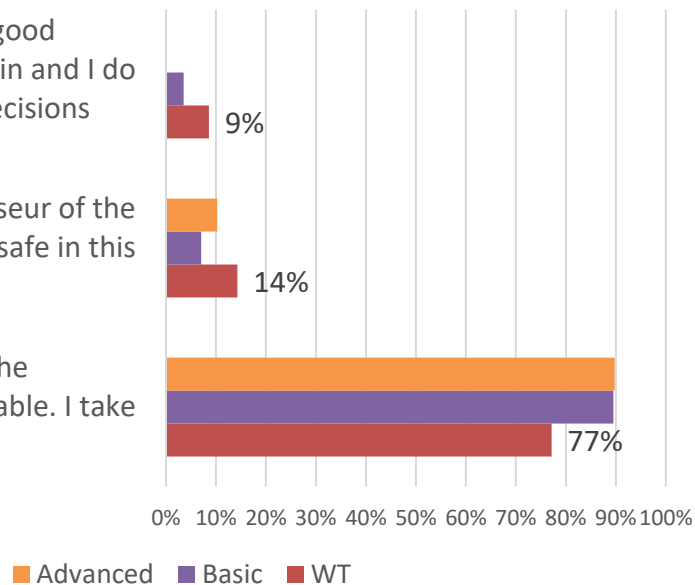
Level of confidence



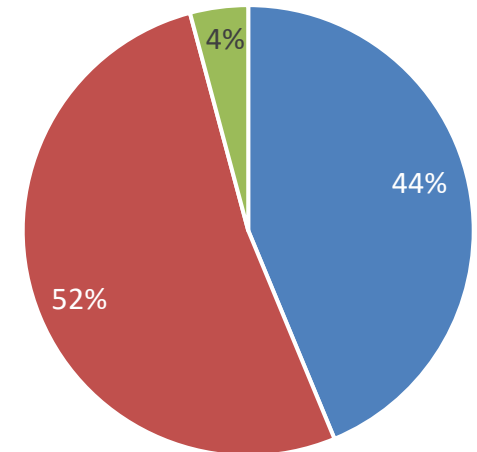
I do not consider myself a good connoisseur of the mountain and I do not feel capable to make decisions regarding avalanche risk.

I am a good connoisseur of the mountain and I feel safe in this environment.

I am aware of the risks of the mountain and I feel vulnerable. I take conservative decisions.



Have it changed your perception after the training course?



- Yes, I have more knowledge of the environment and I feel safer
- Yes, I am more aware of the risk and I feel more vulnerable
- I feel as safe as before doing the course

CONCLUSIONS

The answers obtained in the survey suggest the following conclusions:

- People with specific **training** on avalanches and rescue are **better prepared** in their trips: they have the **safety equipment** at a higher percentage, they make more use of cartographic tools, they check the **avalanche forecast** in a higher percentage, they do more **rescue practices** during the season and feel more prepared to **organize the rescue** of their group. The higher the level of training is, the better prepared the trip is.
- There is a significant increase in the acquisition of **rescue equipment** after attending training courses.
- Concerning the perception of risk, the most well-trained people tend to rely more on their knowledge, although this fact does not imply that they take riskier choices than those who are not trained.

CONCLUSIONS

- This data shows the **importance of the continuous training** for winter sports practitioners. With basic training, people start to be aware (for example, with the acquisition of rescue equipment) but it seems that only with advanced training people feel really capable of taking decisions and acting according to the protocols learned.
- Finally, we have to do an effort to influence some specific collectives, including women and people with many years of experience; as well as offer advanced trainings to the freeriders collective.



**THANK YOU VERY MUCH
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

