

This accident points out that a snowpit does not insure an accurate stability evaluation. The men trusted the snowpit and the overall stable “feel” of the snow. Had they found obvious instability, the men were prepared to ski one at a time to safer terrain. They relaxed their caution, and all three were caught. Despite the failure of the snow pit to give a conclusive answer, it is still a recommended procedure in stability evaluation. Several pits are more reliable than one.