

## Heavy snowfall disaster in 2005/06 winter

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During the winter of 2005-2006, Japan suffered one of the worst snow and avalanche disasters on record. Heavy snowfall continued from early December 2005 until the middle of January 2006 during a period of record low air temperatures.

Historical severe snow disasters occurred all over Japan's snowy regions, ranging from the Hokkaido Prefecture in the north to as far south as to the Yamaguchi Prefecture.

Numerous houses were collapsed by heavy snow loads, and many highways and railroads were closed due to high rates of snowfall and the large number of snow avalanches.

A total of 152 people were killed, and 2,145 were injured. More than 70% of the victims were elderly people over sixty who were removing snow from their house roofs.