

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

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Slab avalanches were occurred at Mt. Kamihoro-kamettoku in Hokkaido Prefecture on November, 2007. First slab avalanche occurred at west slope of Mt. Kamihoro-kamettoku on November 13, 2007 and one person was injured. On November 23, 2007, four persons were killed and 12 persons were injured by a slab avalanche from north slope of the ridge of Mt. Kamihoro-kamettoku. Field investigations were carried out on November 17 and 25 to reveal the avalanche characteristics and snow cover structures. The existences of weak layers were confirmed by the pit observations. Both of the weak layers of the west slope avalanche and the north slope avalanche were consist of depth hoar crystals.