

Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., referee comment RC2
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Comment on nhess-2022-54

Karl W. Birkeland (Referee)

Referee comment on "On the correlation between a sub-level qualifier refining the danger level with observations and models relating to the contributing factors of avalanche danger" by Frank Techel et al., Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2022-54-RC2>, 2022

This paper is an interesting investigation on whether sub-level qualifiers can be used to refine the danger level assigned in avalanche forecasting in Switzerland. The authors have done some excellent work for this paper, and they have used a wide variety of data sources (including natural avalanche activity, human-triggered avalanches, signs of instability, snow stability test results, as well as results from two different numerical models). The science is solid and the material is well-presented. I recommend publication with only some minor typographical changes, and one minor suggestion. Please see the attached PDF for my suggested changes.

My minor suggestion is simply that the authors consider expanding their discussion to include a few more points. I have included some suggestions in notes on the attached PDF.

Karl Birkeland

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://nhess.copernicus.org/preprints/nhess-2022-54/nhess-2022-54-RC2-supplement.pdf>