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Avalanche Control Works

In Niigata prefecture, 1,484 sites within proximity of villages are designated as avalanche-prone, the fourth highest number in the country. As avalanches have occurred frequently in the past, the prefecture began its countermeasures when the Ministry of Construction (the present Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport) initiated avalanche control works in 1985. By improving equipment such as prevention barricades while advancing nonstructural measures such as our warning and evacuation system, we hope to continue to comprehensively raise the level of avalanche prevention.



Maseguchi area (Itoigawa City) Construction: 1986-1998

In January, 1986 a large-scale avalanche occurred on Mt. Gongen. The greatest avalanche disaster in some 60 years involving ordinary residences, it killed 13 people, injured 9, and destroyed several houses.

Main Countermeasures

- Energy dissipator works
L=127.8m
- Protection fence works
L=311.0m
- 8 snowmelt pond works



Ogunisawa area (Nagaoka City) Construction: 2000-2003

An avalanche that occurred in January of 1981 reached as far as the backyard of ordinary houses. We protect houses from avalanches by placing barriers in order to prevent such disasters.

Main Countermeasures

- 26 avalanche control works