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## **AlpenPro Announces Release of the Helicopter Avalanche-Blast**

The “Avalanche Blast” is a gas explosion device which can be suspended below a helicopter for avalanche control work. This eliminates the need for conventional explosives in the cabin, and all of the problems affiliated with high explosives.

The “Avalanche Blast” device has a magazine of eleven latex weather balloons, each of which can be inflated with hydrogen and oxygen for one blast. A magazine change takes under 30 seconds.

The device has been safely and successfully used for one complete season of actual avalanche control by Elikos in the Dolomite region of Italy. Over 400 blasts were fired with a success rate of 80%. Customers included several ski areas and one high mountain pass. Prior to the season of actual use another 100 blasts were fired for testing.

The “Avalanche Blast” eliminates the need for explosives in the helicopter cabin and the related problems such as explosives permitting and unexploded charges (i.e. “Duds”). It has many safety interlocks built in, and there is a camera allowing the operator to directly monitor the balloon area.

This is a major step forward in safety for helicopter avalanche bombing missions and will increase national security by reducing the need for conventional explosives.

AlpenPro exclusively distributes and provides engineering support for the Avlanche Blast outside of Europe. For more information, including background, specs, and video, visit the [AlpenPro.com](http://AlpenPro.com) website.

Inquiries can be made through [AlpenPro.com](http://AlpenPro.com) and addressed to Jim Frankenfield, M.Sc.

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