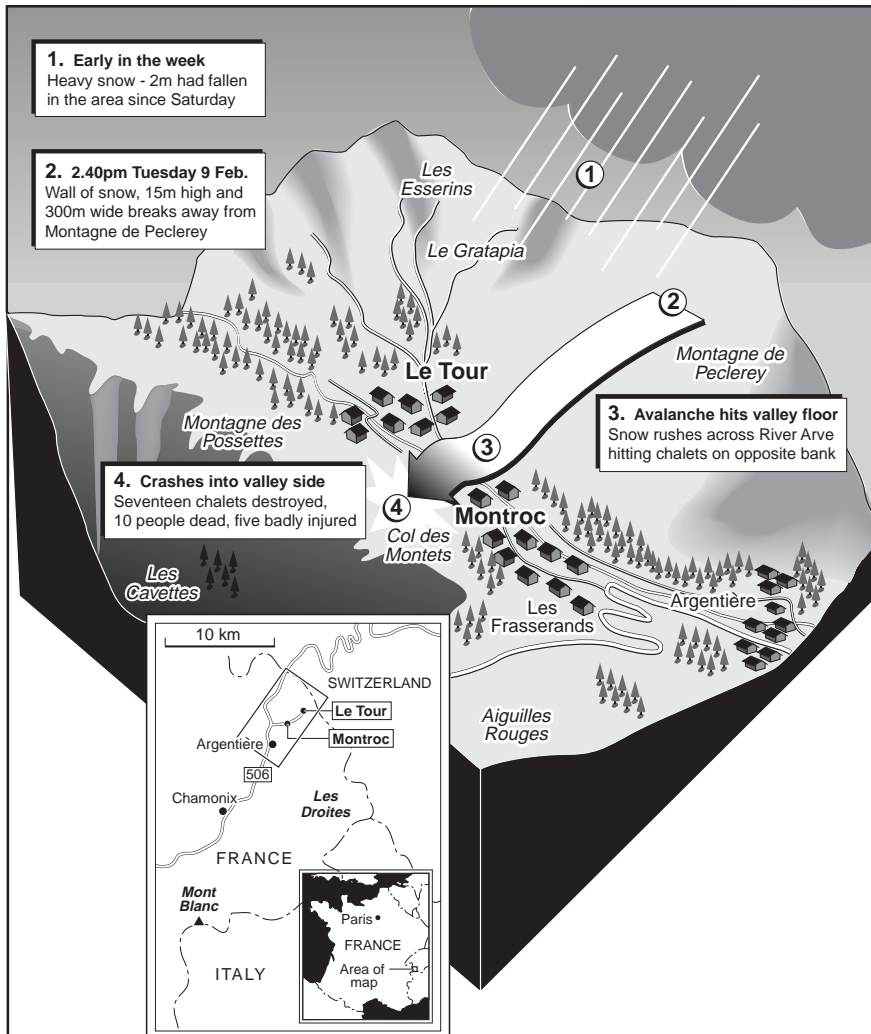


Window 8.2 The Chamonix Valley avalanche disaster, 1999

On Tuesday 9 February 1999 at 2.40 pm a large mass of snow and ice broke away from a mountain – the Montagne de Peclerey – on the sides of the glacially steepened Chamonix Valley in the Alps of France. This avalanche, triggered by exceptionally heavy snowfalls (there had been over 2 m in the area since the previous Saturday), sped towards the valley floor, crossed the River Arve, and crashed into the opposite valley side, demolishing 17 chalets in the hamlets of Le Tour and Montroc. Being the height of the ski season, ten people were killed and five more were badly injured. It was the worst avalanche disaster in the valley in the twentieth century.



The Montroc avalanche, 1999.