

A perspective from AMPS forecasts on tragic accidents during the Antarctic 2010-11 field season, by D. H. Bromwich and J. P. Nicolas, Polar Meteorology Group, Byrd Polar Research Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA.

The 2010-11 Antarctic operational season was shadowed by two tragic accidents that cost the lives of seven people. The first accident occurred on October 28, when a French helicopter, en route from the resupply vessel *L'Astrolabe* to Dumont d'Urville, crashed some 65 miles off the coast of Adelle Land, caught amidst strong lateral barrier winds. The second accident involved a team of foolhardy adventurers attempting to reach South Pole on squad bikes. On February 26, their vessel sank in the McMurdo Sound during a violent storm. In both cases, the characteristics of the strong wind events are well known and typical of the two areas of interest (barrier winds near Dumont d'Urville; split wind flow around Ross Island). The presentation investigates the circumstances of these accidents using AMPS forecasts. It is shown that the timing, location and intensity of the two storms were accurately predicted by AMPS at least 48 hours ahead.