

GEM – Zackenberg Site, Safety when traveling on glaciers

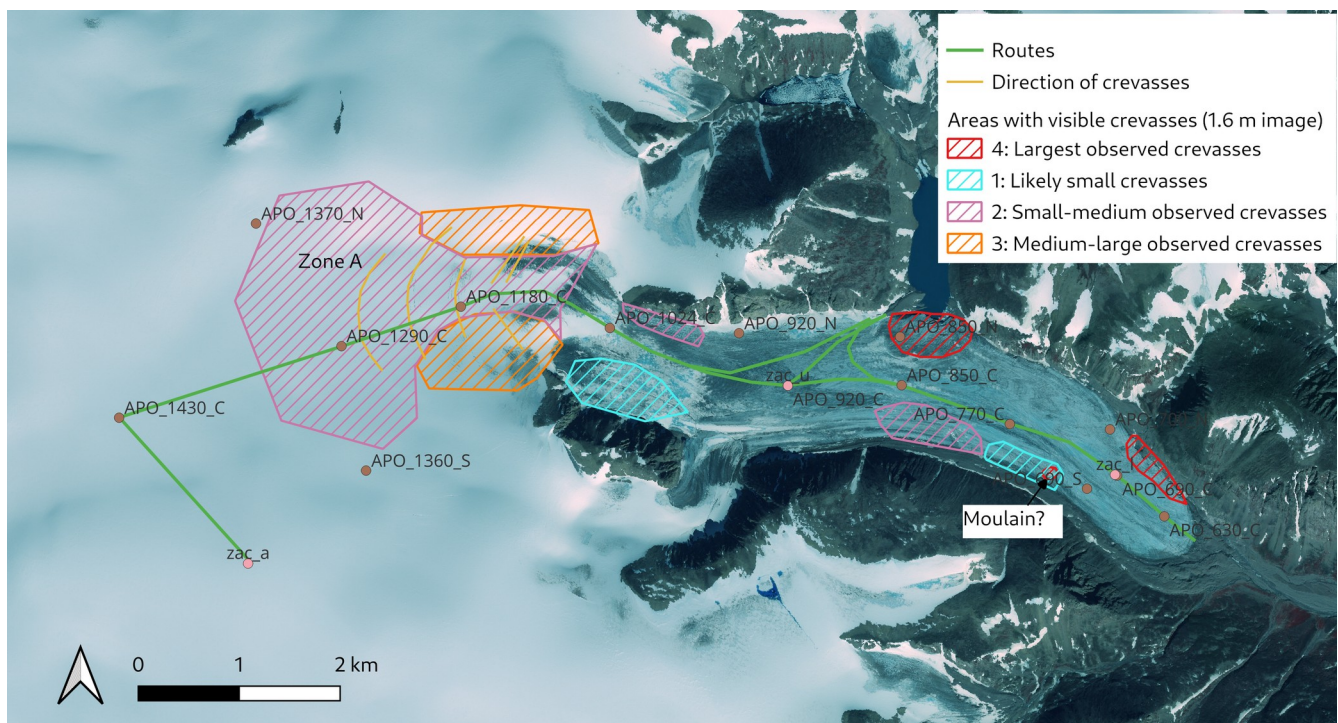
The risks of traveling on glaciers should be considered before going to A. P. Olsen Ice Cap.

Snow covered/bridged crevasses and moulins (wells where water is drained into the glacier) should be considered a potential risk when traveling on a glacier. While crevasses and moulins at A. P. Olsen Ice Cap has not been observed to be very large, also smaller ones can cause dangerous situations. Importantly, glaciers change from year to year, and so does snow depth so you cannot trust that experience from earlier years can be used without proper preparation.

Another thing to consider is that as part of the GlacioBasis monitoring, several aluminum stakes and weather stations are installed. When covered in snow these, in particular the stakes, can be hard to see and care should be taken not to hit them.

Map

There are known crevasses on A. P. Olsen Ice cap as well as one know moulin. Please be aware that this might change from year to year. The map shows some general information about the glacier. Crevassed areas are hashed and optimal traveling routes (marked with green lines) are perpendicular to the crevasses. Positions of stakes and weather stations is marked with dots.



General rules of precaution:

A snow scooter will not necessarily go through a snow bridge because of it's size, but a person might. When stopping the snow scooter, it is important to probe the area before getting off the scooter. This means that a probe should always be available within hands reach without getting of the scooter first. It can be next to the snow shovel in the compartment at the back.

When driving in known crevassed areas, seek to drive perpendicular to crevasses. Consider always wearing a climbing harness at all times and bring gear to pull people out of crevasses.

Map material for download:

crevasse_areas.shp

crevasse_lines.shp

route_on_apo.shp

route_to_apo.shp