

## History's Deadliest Avalanche



In 1962, graduates David Bernays and Charles Sawyer were unwinding with a long climbing expedition through the Cordillera Blanca mountain range in Peru. Between feats of manliness and posing against epic backdrops, they decided to examine a glacier known only as "511," the suspected source of an avalanche that occurred a few years beforehand. What they discovered was enough to put them off their expedition.

Glacier 511 was unstable. As in seriously unstable: The whole thing was basically one push away from obliterating everything in the valley below—a valley that just happened to be home to several thousand people. Returning to civilization, Bernays and Sawyer did what anyone would do and alerted the authorities, who promptly threw them in jail for causing a panic. After two weeks of struggling to be heard, the duo eventually recanted their claims and returned home. Unfortunately for the Peruvian authorities, their victory was short-lived: On May 31, 1970, an earthquake in the region triggered the world's deadliest avalanche. Glacier 511 and more collapsed, burying over 25,000 people under a wall of ice and rock.

## Tobacco's Cancer Link



If you want to witness evil in action, look no further than Big Tobacco in the 20th century. For decades, firms like Phillip Morris and Imperial got stinking rich pushing people into early graves, shilling their products to babies, and generally acting like the standard cartoon cliché of a soulless multinational. But the lowest point of all has to be their active suppression of studies warning about a link between smoking and cancer.

As early as 1930, German researchers had noticed a correlation between the two. By the 1940s, it was pretty much conclusive. Want to guess how Big Tobacco reacted? That's right! By spending the next six decades smearing the science. When people began to worry about the effects of smoking in the '50s, they set up a phony scientific council to counter the claims. When the Surgeon General conclusively linked smoking to a range of health problems in 1989, they rejected the findings. Unbelievably, last year Imperial Tobacco still continued to claim smoking doesn't cause cancer. Thanks in part to that evil, over 100 million people died from smoking in the 20th century alone. That's more than were killed by both world wars

Source: Morris, M. (2013) „10 Deadly Warnings The World Ignored “  
<https://listverse.com/2013/10/08/10-deadly-warnings-the-world-ignored/>