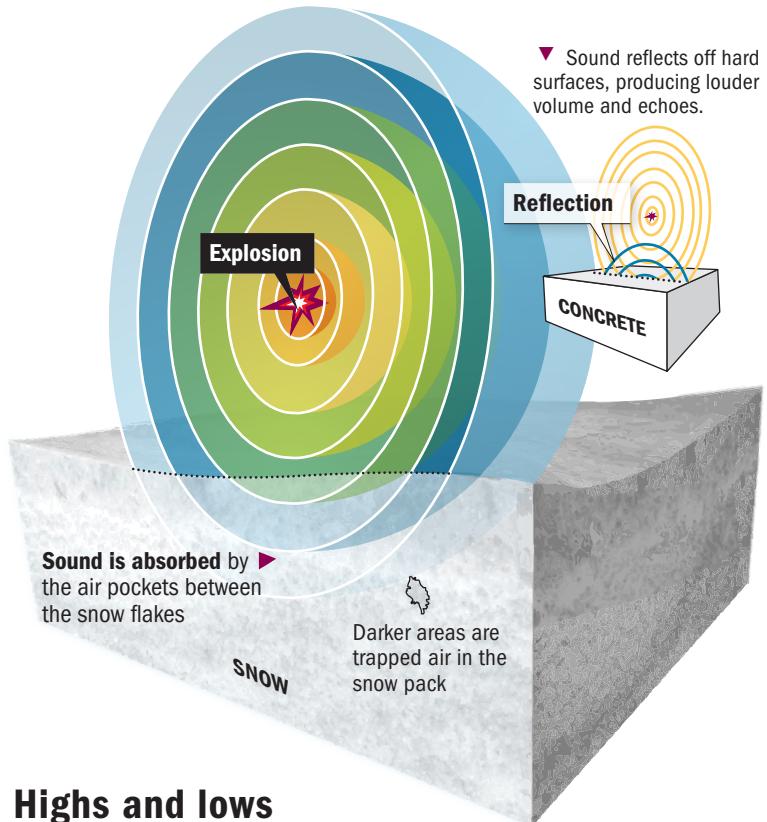


Muffled

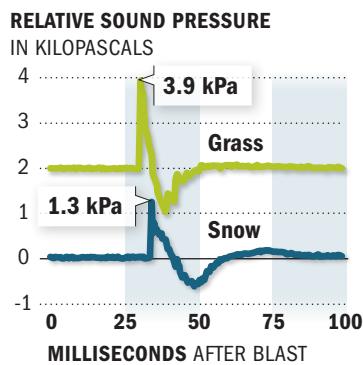
Snow cover reduces the energy and volume of sound. Tiny air pockets in the snowpack absorb the sound waves, especially higher frequencies.



Highs and lows

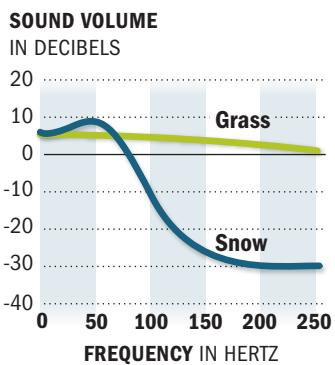
Pressure

Snow reduces the energy or pressure in air created by a sound wave. The pressure created by the peak of a sound wave at about 100 feet is 66 percent less intense over snow compared to grass.



Intensity

Snow is particularly good at absorbing high-pitch, high-frequency sound. Low bass tones, measured at 50 hertz or lower, travel as far over snow as they do over grass. As the pitch increases, the sound's decibel level decreases.



Source: Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory

TIM MEKO | DISPATCH