

National avalanche bulletin no. 71

from Tuesday, 6 February 2007, 18:30 hours

Moderate and low avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Tuesday it was cloudy in the Swiss Alps. A few centimetres of snow fell on the northern flanks of the Alps. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 4 degrees. The westerly wind was light to moderate.

The small quantity of fresh snow is lying on an old snow surface whose quality varies greatly. It is still loosely packed on some steep shady slopes. In many places it has been compacted by the wind and is hard or brittle. Especially on the northern flank of the Swiss Alps, small fresh snow drift accumulations are lying on a snow surface that is icy and slippery in some places. This can give rise to falls in very steep terrain. The snow line on north facing slopes in the areas to the west of the Reuss and in Ticino and Engadine is between 1000 and 1200 m; on the northern flank of the Eastern Swiss Alps and in the rest of Grisons it is between 600 and 800 m. On south facing slopes the snow line is about 800 m higher.

Short-term development

Wednesday is mostly cloudy. In all areas a few centimetres of snow falls above approximately 700 to 1000 m. Midday temperatures at 2000 m reach about minus 5 degrees. The south-westerly wind is mainly moderate, but strong at times on the northern flanks of the Alps.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern Alpine ridge; Valais; northern and central Ticino and Grisons:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are found in west to north to south-east facing gullies and bowls in particular. In the Gotthard region, northern and central Ticino and Grisons they are above approximately 2400 m, and in southern Valais, excluding Obergoms, above approximately 2600 m. Fresh, generally small snow drift accumulations are forming mainly adjacent to the ridge line. Within the old snow cover, avalanches are most likely to be triggered by high additional loads. Special caution should be exercised in transitions from a shallow snowpack into gullies and bowls.

Regions north of the northern Alpine ridge and Sotto Ceneri:

Low Avalanche Danger (Level 1)

Above all in the areas to the north of the northern Alpine ridge, the small fresh snow drift accumulations should be treated with caution. These are mainly to be found adjacent to the ridge line. Isolated avalanche prone locations still exist in extremely steep territory.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday and Friday the weather remains unsettled with westerly winds. Some snow falls. Very little change in temperature is anticipated. The avalanche danger does not change significantly.

Additional information: 'Fax-on-demand' (CHF 1.49/min.)
0900 59 2020 List of fax aids SLF
0900 59 2025 Snow Depths Map (in case of major change)
0900 59 2026 New Snow Map daily
0900 162 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss
(CHF 2./min.)
Weather Information in collaboration
with MeteoSwiss

Regional avalanche bulletins (CHF 1.49/min.)
0900 59 20 31 Central Switzerland
0900 59 20 32 Lower Valais / VD
0900 59 20 33 Upper Valais
0900 59 20 34 North and Central Grisons
0900 59 20 35 South Grisons
0900 59 20 36 Bernese Oberland
0900 59 20 37 Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps

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Avalanche danger forecast

Wednesday, 7. February 2007

Danger level

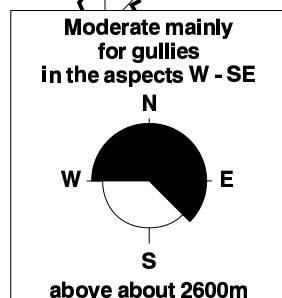
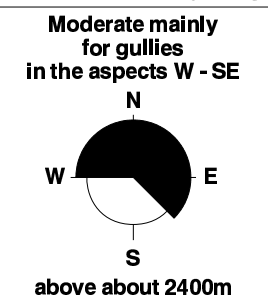
1 LOW

2 MODERATE

3 considerable

4 high

5 very high



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