

National avalanche bulletin no. 72

from Wednesday, 7 February 2007, 18:30 hours

Widespread moderate avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Wednesday it was predominantly overcast in the Swiss Alps, with isolated clearings. Hardly any new snow fell. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 4 degrees. Light to moderate westerly winds prevailed.

On the northern flanks of the Alps in particular, there are rather small snowdrift accumulations partly on icy, slippery snow surfaces. In very steep terrain this can lead to falls.

Along the northern flanks of the Alps, in the Gotthard region and in Ticino, the old snow cover is generally well consolidated. Also in the remaining regions of Valais and Grisons, the old snow cover is becoming increasingly more stable. The frequency of avalanche prone locations is slowly diminishing.

Short-term development

On Thursday it is mostly cloudy. From the west, precipitation sets in. In the western part of the northern flanks of the Alps, in western Lower Valais and in Goms, about 15 cm of snow is expected. In the central and eastern parts of the northern flanks of the Alps, in the remaining Valais, in northern and central Ticino and in northern Grisons, about 5 to 10 cm of snow falls. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be about minus 4 degrees. Strong southwesterly winds, in the western part of the northern flanks of the Alps at times also stormy winds, prevail. In western regions in particular, fresh snowdrift accumulations form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Whole area of the Swiss Alps not including the northern Prealpes or Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

In the western part of the northern flanks of the Alps not including the Prealpes, in northern Valais, in Champex, Gd St Bernard and in Goms, the avalanche prone locations are primarily in west to north to southeast-facing gullies and bowls and in areas adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects above approximately 2200 m. The fresh snowdrift is easily triggered in places. In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are primarily in west to north to southeast-facing gullies and bowls above approximately 2400 m. In all regions, triggering avalanches in the old snow cover is possible, especially through high additional loads. Special caution should be exercised in transitions from a shallow snowpack into gullies and bowls.

Northern Prealpes and Sotto Ceneri:

Low Avalanche Danger (Level 1)

In the northern Prealpes in particular, special caution should be exercised towards the fresh, rather small snowdrift accumulations. These are found primarily in areas adjacent to the ridge line. There are still isolated avalanche prone locations in the old snow cover in extremely steep terrain.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Friday it will be partly sunny. Saturday will be variable and a small amount of snow will fall. The avalanche danger will not change appreciably.

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

Thursday, 8. February 2007

Danger level

- 1 LOW**
- 2 MODERATE**
- 3 considerable**
- 4 high**
- 5 very high**

