

National avalanche bulletin no. 73

from Thursday, 8 February 2007, 18:30 hours

In the west regionally considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Thursday it was mostly cloudy. In the western part of the northern flanks of the Alps and in western Lower Valais, up to 15 cm of snow fell. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 3 and minus 5 degrees. Strong southwesterly winds prevailed, in the west in particular. Since Tuesday midday, in shower-like precipitation, the following amounts of snow have fallen above approximately 1500 m: in Chablais and the western regions of the northern Alpine ridge, 20 to 30 cm; north of this region, about 15 centimetres; along the central and eastern parts of the northern flanks of the Alps, 5 to 10 cm; and in the remaining Valais and in Grisons, less than 5 centimetres.

Particularly on the northern flanks of the Alps, the snowdrift accumulations of recent days lie partly on an icy, slippery old snow surface. On 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.

Short-term development

On Friday it is dry and partly sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 m are between minus 2 degrees in the west and south and minus 5 degrees in the east. During the night, strong southwesterly winds still prevail, then on Friday only light to moderate westerly winds.

Especially during the night, snow will continue to drift.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern Alpine ridge from Chablais to Blüemlisalp:

Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are in west to north to southeast-facing snowdrift slopes as well as in areas adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects above approximately 2400 m. Avalanches can be triggered by single persons.

Remaining region of the Swiss Alps not including northern Prealpes or Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are primarily in west to north to southeast-facing slopes as well as in areas adjacent to the ridge line and pass areas in all aspects. In the remaining western part of the northern flanks of the Alps not including the Prealpes, in western Lower Valais and in the Aletsch region, avalanche prone locations are in snowdrift slopes above approximately 2000 m in particular, otherwise primarily in gullies and bowls above approximately 2400 m. The fresh snowdrift is easily triggered in part and should, in all areas of this danger level, be avoided where possible.

Triggering isolated avalanches in the old snow cover is still possible through high additional loads, in particular in shady gullies and bowls.

Northern Prealpes and Sotto Ceneri:

Low Avalanche Danger (Level 1)

In the northern Prealpes in particular, caution should be exercised towards the fresh, rather small snowdrift accumulations.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

The variable weather will continue. On the northern flanks of the Alps and in the west, light snowfall is possible. The avalanche danger will decrease, especially in the west.

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

Feedback information:
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WAP: wap.slf.ch
Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Avalanche danger forecast

Friday, 9. February 2007

Danger level

-  1 LOW
-  2 MODERATE
-  3 CONSIDERABLE
-  4 high
-  5 very high

