

National avalanche bulletin no. 77

from Monday, 12 February 2007, 18:30 hours

Further increasing avalanche danger with strong north-westerly wind and fresh snow

Current conditions

Monday was mostly very cloudy, and the showers persisted in the west and north. There were some bright spells in the south and Upper Engadine. Since Saturday morning the following amounts of snow have fallen: Vaud and Fribourg Alps, Lower Valais and Goms 30 to 50 cm; remaining northern flank of the Alps, Gotthard region, north-west Ticino, Prättigau to Samnaun 10 to 30 cm; other places only a few centimetres. On the southern flanks of the Alps it remained dry. Midday temperatures on Monday at 2000 m were between plus 1 degree in the north-west and minus 2 degrees in the south. The snowfall level rose temporarily to approximately 2000 m. The moderate to strong west to south-westerly wind was very gusty. Wind has transported snow from the vicinity of ridge lines, so that the snow surface there is hard. The fresh snow layers and the layers of older new snow and wind-deposited snow are poorly bonded.

Short-term development

The showers will continue. By Tuesday evening the following quantities of fresh snow are expected: northern flanks of the Alps, western Lower Valais, northern Valais, Gotthard region 30 to 50 cm; elsewhere 10 to 30 cm. The south has sunny spells. The snowfall altitude drops during the night to approximately 700 m. Midday temperatures at 2000 m falls to about minus 6 degrees. The wind direction will change to north-westerly. The wind will be strong to gale force. Further snow drift accumulations will form, some of them large, mainly in the regions with fresh snow.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Northern flanks of the Alps; Valais; Gotthard region; northern Surselva; Flims-Untervaz; Prättigau; Silvretta; Samnaun:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are wind-loaded slopes of all aspects. They are above approximately 1800 m on the northern flanks of the Alps and above approximately 2000 m elsewhere. Natural avalanches can occur. In the west in particular these can be medium-sized avalanches and, in isolated circumstances, they can endanger exposed parts of transportation routes. Caution and extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger are required.

Remaining areas of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, in gullies and bowls of all aspects. In the rest of northern Ticino and the rest of Grisons, excluding the southern valleys, these locations are above approximately 2000 m. With the onset of showers and the transportation of snow by the wind, the avalanche danger will increase during the day. Avalanches can be triggered by a single person.

In central and southern Ticino and the Grisons southern valleys, the avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 2400 m.

Especially in the west and north, isolated small wet snow slides can occur on all aspects below approximately 1800 m.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

On Wednesday small quantities of snow will continue to fall in the west and north, and the weather will become milder. It will brighten up on Thursday. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly from Thursday.

Additional information: 'Fax-on-demand' (CHF 1.49/min.)	Regional avalanche bulletins (CHF 1.49/min.)	Feedback information:
0900 59 2020 List of fax aids SLF	0900 59 20 31 Central Switzerland	Free telephone: 0800 800 187
0900 59 2025 Snow Depths Map (in case of major change)	0900 59 20 32 Lower Valais / VD	Free fax: 0800 800 188
0900 59 2026 New Snow Map daily	0900 59 20 33 Upper Valais	Internet: http://www.slf.ch
0900 162 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss (CHF 2./min.)	0900 59 20 34 North and Central Grisons	Email: lwp@slf.ch
Weather Information in collaboration with MeteoSwiss	0900 59 20 35 South Grisons	WAP: wap.slf.ch
	0900 59 20 36 Bernese Oberland	Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)
	0900 59 20 37 Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps	

Avalanche danger forecast

Tuesday, 13. February 2007

