

National avalanche bulletin no. 78

from Tuesday, 13 February 2007, 18:30 hours

Widespread considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Monday night a lot of snow fell in the west. During the day snow fell mainly on the northern flanks of the Alps and in the northern regions of Grisons. In the south it was generally sunny. The moderate to strong wind was gusty; its direction changed from westerly to north-westerly. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 5 degrees in the north and minus 2 degrees in the south.

Since Saturday morning the following amounts of snow have fallen above approximately 1800 m: Le Trient region up to 120 cm; Vaud and Fribourg Alps, Lower Valais and northern Valais 50 to 80 cm; rest of Valais, remaining northern flanks of the Alps and northern regions of Grisons 30 to 50 cm, elsewhere 10 to 20 cm. In central and southern Ticino the weather was dry.

Large snow drift accumulations have formed in Valais and on the northern flanks of the Alps. The layers of fresh and older wind-deposited snow are still poorly bonded.

Short-term development

A few more centimetres of snow will fall in the north-east of the Swiss Alps by Wednesday morning. The weather will then become calmer here as well. During the day fresh cloud will build up from the west and light snow will fall. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will rise to plus 2 degrees in the north. In the south they will remain at about minus 2 degrees. The wind direction will change to south-westerly. The wind will remain moderate to strong. Further generally small snow drift accumulations continue to form. The snow pack will settle, especially in the areas exposed to heavier snowfall. The avalanche situation for those engaging in winter sports remains nonetheless difficult.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flanks of the Alps; Valais; Gotthard region; Northern and Central Grisons; Engadine, Bernina Pass and Ofen Pass:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are, in particular, 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. The likelihood of avalanche triggering is high. Isolated natural avalanches can still occur. In the west in particular these can be medium-sized avalanches. 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 above approximately 2200 m.

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

Trend for Thursday and Friday






On Wednesday night a little snow will fall in the north. It will then remain sunny until Friday. The temperature in the mountains will fall on Thursday, but on Friday a foehn wind will give rise to very mild weather. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease slowly. On Friday an increasing number of small wet snow slides and avalanches can be expected.

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

Wednesday, 14. February 2007

Danger level

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

