

National avalanche bulletin no. 79

from Wednesday, 14 February 2007, 18:30 hours

Widespread still considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Wednesday clouds moved in from the west and a few centimetres of snow fell above approximately 2000 m. To begin with, moderate north-westerly winds prevailed, later they shifted to strong southerly to south-westerly winds. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 1 degree in the north and minus 1 degree in the south.

The snowdrift accumulations of recent days are large, particularly in the west. The bonding between the various snowdrift layers is still weak in part.

Short-term development

By Thursday midday in Lower Valais, on the northern flanks of the Alps and in northern Grisons, 10 to 15 cm of snow will fall, in the remaining regions somewhat less. Subsequently it will be rather sunny, as in the south it already is. The snow line will sink during the night to about 1300 m. Thereafter, it will rise again. The midday temperature at 2000 m in the north is about minus 3 degrees. In the afternoon, temperatures will rise significantly in the north. In the south, the temperature will be about minus 1 degree. Moderate to strong south-westerly winds will shift to north.

The snow pack continues to settle. Especially in the north, however, fresh, rather small snowdrift accumulations are forming.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Northern flanks of the Alps not including Prealpes; Valais; Gotthard region; north and central Grisons; Engadine, Benin Pass and Ofenpass.:

Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are primarily on snowdrift slopes in all aspects. Along the northern flanks of the Alps, they are above approximately 1800 m; in the Valais, in the Bedretto and in the upper Leventina, above approximately 2000 m; in the indicated areas of Grisons, above approximately 2200 m. The likelihood of avalanches being released has decreased. Nevertheless, isolated avalanches can still be triggered by single persons. In the west, these can reach medium size. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and maintaining distances between persons are important.

The remaining regions of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

In the northern Prealpes the avalanche prone locations are primarily in snowdrift slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. In the southern regions of this danger level, they are in gullies and bowls in all aspects above approximately 2200 m in particular.

Through the warming during the afternoon, in the north below about 2000 m moist snow slides are possible.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

In the north it will be sunny and due to prevailing foehn wind extremely mild. In the south it will be sunny on Friday. On Saturday it will be overcast, but dry. The danger of dry avalanches continues to decrease. In the course of the day, moist sluffs and avalanches can be expected.

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, 15. February 2007

