

National avalanche bulletin no. 81

from Friday, 16 February 2007, 18:30 hours

Regionally considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Friday it was sunny and the winds light. Midday temperatures at 2000 m rose significantly and were about plus 6 degrees. In the Engadine it was slightly less mild, at plus 3 degrees.

On steep southern-facing slopes the snow became moist well into higher altitude zones. The snowdrift accumulations which formed at the beginning of the week settled, especially on the southern-facing slopes. The bonding between the various snowdrift layers is partly still weak, particularly on shady slopes.

Short-term development

On Saturday it will be sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 4 degrees in the north and zero degrees in the south. Light winds continue to prevail.

The snowpack will cool down during the night, so that conditions in the morning hours will be somewhat better. Through the daytime warming, the likelihood of both dry and moist avalanches being released will rise again somewhat.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Northern Alpine ridge not including Alpstein-Alvier and Liechtenstein; also Leysin; Pay d'Enhaut; Gstaad; Lenk; Valais not including southern Simplon region; also northern and central Grisons not including Zervreila, Rheinwald and Avers; also Engadine:

Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are primarily on southwest to north to southeast-facing snowdrift slopes above approximately 2200 m. Single persons can trigger avalanches. In the west, these can attain medium size. In the east the avalanche prone locations are somewhat less widespread.

Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

The remaining regions of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

In the northern regions of this danger level the avalanche prone locations are on southwest to north to southeast-facing snowdrift slopes above approximately 1800 m in particular. In the southern regions of this danger level, they are primarily in southwest to north to southeast-facing gullies and bowls above approximately 2200 m.

Everywhere except in Ticino, due to warming through the course of the day and radiation, moist snow slides and avalanches can be expected. They are anticipated on sunny slopes below about 2800 m, elsewhere below about 2000 m.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday it will be sunny in the north; in Valais and in the south it will be overcast. On Monday it will be sunny. Temperatures will decrease. The avalanche danger will diminish.

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

Saturday, 17. February 2007

Danger level

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

