

National avalanche bulletin no. 82

from Saturday, 17 February 2007, 18:30 hours

Regionally still considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Saturday it was sunny in the north; on the southern flank of the Alps it was predominantly overcast. Mostly light northeasterly winds prevailed in the mountains. The midday temperature in the north at 2000 m was a mild plus 7 degrees. On the southern flank of the Alps, it was decidedly cooler, at minus 4 degrees.

On steep south-facing slopes the snow was moistened well into higher altitude zones. The snowdrift accumulations which formed at the beginning of the week have settled intensely, especially on south-facing slopes. On shady slopes the bonding between the various snowdrift layers is in part still weak.

At 2000 m the snow depths on the northern Alpine ridge, in Lower Valais, in the Gotthard region and in Prättigau are 80 to 130 cm; in the remaining regions, 50 to 80 cm.

Short-term development

On Sunday along the southern flank of the Alps a few centimetres of snow will fall. In the remaining regions it will be mostly sunny. Temperatures in the north will decrease. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be zero degrees in the north and minus 6 degrees on the southern flank of the Alps. Winds remain light.

The cooling of the snowpack layers near to the surface during the night is favourable. Through the daytime warming, the likelihood of both dry and moist avalanches being released will again increase somewhat.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Northern Alpine ridge from Chablais to the Reuss and Lower Valais:

Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are primarily on west to north to east-facing steep slopes with older snowdrift accumulations above approximately 2200 m. Transitions from a shallow snowpack into steeper terrain and into gullies and bowls must be assessed especially critically. In such places in particular, even single persons can still trigger avalanches. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is important.

The remaining regions of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

On the southern flank of the Alps, the avalanche prone locations are primarily in southwest to north to southeast-facing gullies and bowls above approximately 2200 m. In the remaining regions of this danger level, the especially dangerous places are on southwest to north to southeast-facing steep slopes with older snowdrift accumulations above approximately 2000 m in particular. Especially in transitions from a shallow snowpack to areas with a lot of snow, avalanches can be triggered through high additional loading.

Except for along the southern flank of the Alps, daytime warming and radiation will make moist snow slides possible.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On both days it will be predominantly sunny and rather mild. The avalanche danger will hardly change.

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:
Free telephone: 0800 800 187
Free fax: 0800 800 188
Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>
Email: lwp@slf.ch
WAP: wap.slf.ch
Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Avalanche danger forecast

Sunday, 18. February 2007

