

National avalanche bulletin no. 84

from Monday, 19 February 2007, 18:30 hours

Widespread moderate avalanche danger

Current conditions

Monday was generally sunny with light cloud, particularly on the northern flank of the Alps. The northerly wind was light to moderate. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 2 degrees in the north and plus 2 degrees on the southern flank of the Alps.

On steep south facing slopes the snow has become moist, even at higher altitudes. Last week's snow drift accumulations have already settled to a large extent on the south facing slopes. On shady slopes the various layers of wind- deposited snow are still poorly bonded in some cases. Full-depth slab avalanches can therefore be released.

The snow line on north facing slopes is between 1000 and 1400 m. Snow is lying above approximately 1700 m on south facing slopes, and above approximately 2000 m on the southern flank of the Alps and in Engadine.

Short-term development

Tuesday will be sunny. The wind will be light and from various directions. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between 0 degrees in the west and minus 2 degrees in Engadine.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Northern flank of the Alps excluding Central and Eastern Prealps; also Valais, northern Ticino, and Grisons excluding Lower Val Calanca and Lower Val Moesa:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

In the Simplon region, northern Ticino, Upper Val Calanca, Upper Val Moesa and the remaining Grisons southern valleys, avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in west to north to southeast facing gullies and bowls above approximately 2200 m. In the other regions subject to this danger level, critical locations exist in particular on steep slopes with relatively old snow drift accumulations. These locations are mainly in west to north to southeast aspects above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered, especially where there is a transition from a shallow to a deep snowpack, by large additional loads, such as those caused by a fall or a cluster of snow sport participants.

Central and Eastern Prealps; central Ticino, Lower Val Calanca and Lower Val Moesa:

Low avalanche danger (level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are still to be found in extremely steep, shady gullies and bowls in particular. Relatively small avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

On each of the next two days it will remain generally sunny. The wind will be mainly light and the temperatures rather mild, reaching about 0 degrees at 2000 m. The avalanche danger will continue to decrease only slowly.

	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	0900 59 20 34 North and Central Gris	ons Email: lwp@slf.ch
		(CHF 2./min.)	0900 59 20 35 South Grisons	WAP: wap.slf.ch
	Weather Information in collaboration		0900 59 20 36 Bernese Oberland	Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)
with MeteoSwiss			0900 59 20 37 Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps	

