

National avalanche bulletin no. 88

from Friday, 23 February 2007, 18:30 hours

Predominantly still favourable avalanche situation

Current conditions

On Friday along the northern flank of the Alps the sun shone intermittently. In the remaining regions it was mostly cloudy. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 1 degree. Light southerly winds prevailed.

On shady slopes the snowpack is in part pervaded by older wind crusts and in mid altitude zones also by melt-freeze crusts. The bonding between the various snow layers is in part still trigger-sensitive through high loading. Since the snowpack fundament on northern slopes often consists of a depth hoar layer, released surface-layer slab avalanches can break through to the ground and thereby attain high fracture depths.

The snow line on northern slopes in Lower Valais and in the regions east of the Reuss is between 1000 and 1200 m, elsewhere between 1200 and 1600 m. On southern slopes it is mostly between 1600 and 1800 m; in western Lower Valais and the Gotthard region to the Glarus Alps region, between 1200 and 1400 m; in the Lower Engadine, between 2000 and 2200 m.

Short-term development

On Saturday it will be variably cloudy and above 1200 to 1500 m a bit of snow will fall in showers, initially in the west and on the southern flank of the Alps, later on also in the north. In the far west and in Ticino, 5 to 10 centimetres of snow is expected, in the remaining regions, markedly less. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 2 degrees. Moderate to strong southwesterly winds will regain in force. Fresh snowdrift accumulations will remain small.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Northern Alpine ridge including Leysin, Pays d'Enhaut, Gstaad and Lenk; main Alpine ridge; Valais; northern and central Grisons, also the Engadine and Münstertal:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are primarily in west to north to east-facing slopes. On the northern Alpine ridge between Chablais and the Susten Pass including Leysin, Pays d'Enhaut, Gstaad and Lenk as well as Valais, on the main Alpine ridge, in the Engadine and the Münstertal, the especially dangerous places are in steep gullies and bowls above approximately 2200 m in particular. In the remaining regions of this danger level, they are primarily on steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered particularly through high additional loading. Special caution must be exercised in transitions from shallow snowpack into steep slopes, gullies and bowls.

The remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps and remaining regions of the southern flank of the Alps except for the Münstertal.:

Low Avalanche Danger (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are primarily in extremely steep, shady gullies and bowls. Rather small avalanches released in such places can drag along people and cause them to fall.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday it will be overcast and snow will fall intermittently. On Monday it will snow in the north, in the south it will be predominantly sunny. The temperatures will decrease slightly. On Sunday, particularly in the west and the south, an increase in the avalanche danger is expected.

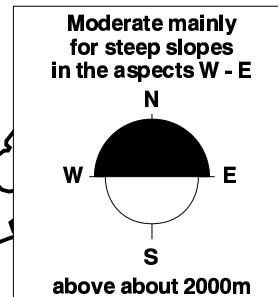
Additional information: 'Fax-on-demand' (CHF 1.49/min.)
0900 59 2020 List of fax aids SLF
0900 59 2025 Snow Depths Map (in case of major change)
0900 59 2026 New Snow Map daily
0900 162 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss
(CHF 2./min.)
Weather Information in collaboration
with MeteoSwiss

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

Saturday, 24. February 2007



Danger level

