

National avalanche bulletin no. 92

from Tuesday, 27 February 2007, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger persists with stormy weather and new snow

Current conditions

On Tuesday it became brighter in the north briefly until light snowfall recommenced in the afternoon. In the south it was generally sunny. Since the snowfall started on Saturday morning, the following amounts have fallen: Vaud and Fribourg Alps, northern Lower Valais and the Champex and Great St Bernard regions 50 to 100 cm, remaining northern flank of the Alps and rest of Valais, as well as in the Gotthard region 20 to 50 cm, rest of northern Ticino, northern Grisons and Lower Engadine 10 to 20 cm, and remaining Grisons less than 10 cm. The snowfall level on Tuesday was approximately 800 to 1000 m. The wind was moderate to strong, from the west to northwest.

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on an old snow surface, which in some places comprises faceted and loosely bonded snow crystals or surface hoar. In other places the old snow surface consists of crusts or is icy. The bonding between the fresh snow and the old snowpack is poor in some places.

Short-term development

By midday on Wednesday a further 10 to 20 cm of snow will fall in western Lower Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Gotthard region and northern Grisons; the quantities will be lower elsewhere. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be generally sunny. The snowfall level will rise during the night to approximately 1600 m before dropping to approximately 1200 m during the day. The westerly wind will blow strong to gale force and transport large quantities of fresh snow.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Gotthard region; Northern and Central Grisons; Lower Engadine north of the Inn:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

On the northern flank of the Alps and western and northern Lower Valais, the avalanche prone locations are steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Slab avalanches can easily be triggered by a single person. Isolated natural avalanches are also possible, some of which can be medium-sized. In these regions in particular, care and caution must be exercised by those engaging in backcountry freeriding activities.

In the remaining areas subject to this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are chiefly wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations can easily be released. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons, the avalanches on northern slopes can even penetrate the old snowpack.

Remaining parts of Ticino and Engadine, and the Grisons southern valleys:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack, especially by large additional loads in transitions from a shallow snowpack into shady steep slopes, gullies and bowls. At the same time, the snow drift accumulations are becoming larger at higher altitudes. They can be released easily and are to be avoided.

Especially in the west and north, small wet snow slides can occur below approximately 1800 m.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

Snow will continue to fall in the west and north. On Friday the snowfalls will become heavier, especially in the west. The south will have sunny spells. The westerly wind will remain strong to gale force. The avalanche danger will continue to increase in some regions.

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

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