

National avalanche bulletin no. 94

from Thursday, 1 March 2007, 18:30 hours

In the west regionally high avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Thursday it was mostly cloudy in the north, along the southern flank of the Alps and in the Engadine it was predominantly sunny. From Wednesday to Thursday, there was somewhat less precipitation than had been expected, 10 to 25 cm in the west and the north. The snow line was at about 1500 m. The midday temperatures at 2000 m in the north were minus 2 degrees and in the south, plus 1 degree. Moderate to strong southwesterly to westerly winds prevailed.

Through the rain and the higher temperatures of recent days, the snowpack became moistened up to altitude zones around 2000 m and consolidated intensely. Through the decreasing temperatures, it then stabilised somewhat. The bonding of the new snow and snowdrift which has fallen since the weekend and the old snowpack, as well as the bonding within the newer snow layers, are partly still unfavourable. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can fracture down into the old snowpack.

Short-term development

By Friday evening above approximately 1600 m, the following amounts of new snow are expected: Lower Valais and northern flank of the Alps, 30 to 50 cm; the remaining regions of the Valais, Gotthard region, northern and central Grisons and Lower Engadine north of the Inn, 10 to 30 cm; further south, just a few centimetres. In the south it will be increasingly sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 4 degrees. During the night the wind will shift to northwest and blow strongly. Particularly the new snow will drift and in the west and the north, large snowdrift accumulations prone to triggering will form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Chablais; western and northern Lower Valais:

High Avalanche Danger (Level 4)

The avalanche prone locations are primarily on northwest to north to southeast-facing snowdrift slopes above approximately 2200 m. Increasingly, medium sized natural avalanches can be expected. These fracture in dry snow and can penetrate down to mid altitude zones as mixed avalanches. Exposed transportation routes are mostly endangered.

The remaining northern flank of the Alps; remaining Valais; Gotthard region; northern and central Grisons; Lower Engadine:

Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)

In the indicated regions of the northern flank of the Alps and the Valais, the avalanche prone locations are on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. In the remaining Gotthard region, northern and central Grisons and the Lower Engadine, avalanche prone locations are primarily in snowdrift slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Single persons can release slab avalanches. Natural avalanches can be expected in western regions in particular, in the course of the day also in eastern regions.

Ticino not including the Gotthard region; also the Upper Engadine and southern valleys of Grisons:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The fresh snowdrift can easily be triggered, although the amounts of released snow are usually rather small. The snowdrift should be avoided where possible.

In the west and the north below about 1800 m, moist snow slides and avalanches are possible.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

In the north and the west it will snow quite heavily again on Saturday, with strong westerly winds. The snow line will rise to over 2000 m. On Sunday there will be sunny intervals in the north. In the south it will be partly sunny on both days. In the north and the west, the danger of dry and wet avalanches will increase regionally on Saturday.

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

Avalanche danger forecast

Friday, 2. March 2007

Danger level

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

