

## National avalanche bulletin no. 96

from Saturday, 3 March 2007, 18:30 hours

### *In the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps a very critical avalanche situation for backcountry and freeriding activities*

#### Current conditions

Friday night it snowed far and wide, it was dry only in southern Ticino. In the western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and the Gotthard region, 40 to 60 cm of snow fell above approximately 2200 m. The snow line was about 2200 m for a time. The midday temperature at 2000 m was zero degrees. Strong, extremely gusty westerly winds prevailed in the west and the north, moderate winds blew in the south and the east. Between Thursday and Saturday in the Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Gotthard region and the northern Surselva above approximately 2200 m, 70 to 120 cm of new snow fell. In the southern border regions, 30 to 70 cm of snow fell. The new snow amounts increase markedly with rising altitude.

Through the rain the snowpack has been moistened well into altitude zones at around 2200 m. The bonding of new snow and snowdrift to the old snowpack as well as the bonding within the newer layers of snow are partly still unfavourable. Since yesterday, numerous medium to large sized natural avalanches have been released.

#### Short-term development

By Sunday morning in the Valais and along the northern flank of the Alps above approximately 2000 m, a further 5 to 15 cm of snow is expected. From the west and the south it will become increasingly sunny during the day. The midday temperatures at 2000 m are between plus 2 degrees in the west and minus 2 degrees in the southeast. The freezing level will ascend towards 2500 m during the afternoon. Strong northwesterly winds will continue to prevail during the night. In the morning, winds will shift to the west and decrease in strength to light to moderate.

Especially during the night additional snowdrift accumulations will form.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Valais; northern flank of the Alps; northern Ticino; northern and central Grisons; Lower Engadine:

##### *Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2200 m. In the Valais, the Gotthard region and along the northern flank of the Alps, isolated natural avalanches can still be expected. A single backcountry skier can trigger medium sized, in some cases even large sized avalanches. Thus, for backcountry touring and freeriding, very critical conditions prevail.

In the remaining regions of this danger level the avalanches are somewhat smaller. Nonetheless, they can also be triggered easily.

Central Ticino; Upper Engadine and the 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 released, although the amounts of snow usually remain small. Snowdrift accumulations should be avoided where possible.

Due to the rising temperatures during the morning hours the danger of wet avalanches below about 2200 m will increase in all regions. In those regions with a great deal of new snow, exposed sections of isolated transportation routes are endangered.

#### Trend for Monday and Tuesday






On Monday and Tuesday it will become brighter in the east through the foehn wind. In the west and the south, a bit of snow will fall. The avalanche danger will slowly decrease.

<b>Additional information:</b> 'Fax-on-demand' (CHF 1.49/min.)	<b>Regional avalanche bulletins</b> (CHF 1.49/min.)	<b>Feedback information:</b>
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	<b>Internet:</b> <a href="http://www.slf.ch">http://www.slf.ch</a>
0900 162 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss (CHF 2./min.)	0900 59 20 34 North and Central Grisons	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:lwp@slf.ch">lwp@slf.ch</a>
Weather Information in collaboration with MeteoSwiss	0900 59 20 35 South Grisons	<b>WAP:</b> <a href="http://wap.slf.ch">wap.slf.ch</a>
	0900 59 20 36 Bernese Oberland	<b>Teletext:</b> Page 782 (SF DRS)
	0900 59 20 37 Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps	

# Avalanche danger forecast

Sunday, 4. March 2007

Danger level

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

