

National avalanche bulletin no. 97

from Sunday, 4 March 2007, 18:30 hours

Widespread considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

Saturday night the precipitation drew to an end, including in the northeast of the Swiss Alps. On Sunday it was sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m was plus 3 degrees. Light to moderate southwesterly winds prevailed. Since Thursday above approximately 2000 m, the following amounts of new snow have fallen: Valais, northern flank of the Alps, Gotthard region, northern Surselva: 50 to 100 cm; the bordering regions of Ticino and Grisons, 30 to 50 cm; elsewhere about 10 to 20 cm. The new snow amounts increase markedly with ascending altitude. Through the rain the snowpack has been moistened well into altitude zones at about 2200 m. The bonding of the new snow and snowdrift to the old snowpack and the bonding within the newer layers of snow are partly still unfavourable. This verifies the high degree of avalanche activity.

Short-term development

Sunday night will be predominantly clear. The snowpack layers near to the surface may cool down somewhat, which will favourably influence snowpack stability. On Monday unfavourable weather will traverse the Swiss Alps. Along the northern flank of the Alps, there will be 5 to 10 cm of new snow. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be zero degrees. Light to moderate southwesterly winds will prevail.

Due to the increased temperatures through the course of the day, the likelihood of dry and wet avalanches being released will rise.

Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Valais; northern flank of the Alps; northern Ticino; northern and central Grisons with the exception of Rheinwald and Avers; also Lower Engadine:

Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are on southwest to north to southeast-facing steep slopes. In the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are above approximately 2000 m, elsewhere above approximately 2200 m. The major danger lies in the snowdrift of recent days. A single backcountry skier can trigger an avalanche. For backcountry touring and freeriding critical conditions prevail.

Only isolated natural avalanches are to be expected.

Central Ticino; Rheinwald; Avers; Upper Engadine and the southern valleys of Grisons:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are on southwest to north to southeast-facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. The fresh snowdrift is easily triggered, although the amounts of snow are usually small. Snowdrift accumulations should be avoided where possible.

In the course of the day below about 2400 m, particularly on steep sunny slopes, wet snow slides and wet avalanches can be expected.

Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On Tuesday it will be mostly sunny with foehn winds. On Wednesday in the west and the south, it will snow. The avalanche danger will slowly decrease in the north. In the south, the danger may increase again as of Wednesday.

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

Monday, 5. March 2007

Danger level

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

