

National avalanche bulletin no. 99

from Tuesday, 6 March 2007, 18:30 hours

Fresh snow increases avalanche danger in the south

Current conditions

On Tuesday it was overcast in the south, and a few centimetres of snow fell above approximately 1800 m. In the north the foehn wind gave rise to some bright spells. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about plus 1 to plus 3 degrees in the north and about minus 1 degree in the south. The southerly wind was moderate to strong on the northern Alpine ridge and in Grisons, but light to moderate elsewhere.

Last week's fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are continuing to settle and bond. The most treacherous places are where the snowpack is shallow at the edges of gullies and bowls. Avalanches can be released, even penetrating the old snow cover. Fresh compact snow drift accumulations are forming especially in areas adjacent to the ridge line and pass areas.

Short-term development

On Wednesday, 30 to 50 cm of snow will fall on the southern flank of the Alps above approximately 2000 m. The snowfall level will drop from approximately 1800 m to about 1400 m. In the neighbouring regions to the north 10 to 20 cm of snow will fall. In the north it will be mostly overcast. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 1 degree. The southerly wind will blow moderate to strong in the east, but light to moderate in the west. Fresh snow drift accumulations will form. As snow falls in the south, these will become more extensive and larger. In the north the accumulations will be found adjacent to the ridge line and at high altitudes in particular.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern Alpine ridge; Valais; Ticino; Grisons:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

On the main Alpine ridge from Saastal to the Bernina region and to the south, avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes and adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The danger will increase during the day, from moderate to considerable. The fresh snow drift accumulations are dangerous.

In the remaining areas subject to this danger level, avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on steep northwest to north to east facing slopes and adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects above approximately 2200 m. Last week's snow drift accumulations can be released by a single snow sport participant in some cases.

In particular, transitions from a shallow snowpack into gullies and bowls are treacherous.

Northern prealps and other regions north of the northern Alpine ridge.:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 1800 m. Older snow drift accumulations and, adjacent to the ridge line, fresh ones as well must be evaluated with care and prudence.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday the snowfall in the south will cease and it will become increasingly sunny. On Friday it will be generally sunny. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly from Friday.

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

Feedback information:
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Avalanche danger forecast

Wednesday, 7. March 2007

Danger level

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

