

National avalanche bulletin no. 100

from Wednesday, 7 March 2007, 18:30 hours

Widespread considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Wednesday along the southern flank of the Alps it was heavily overcast and it snowed. In the north it was cloudy, though with isolated sunny intervals in the course of the afternoon. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 1 degree. Light to moderate southerly winds prevailed.

Since Tuesday evening in the Simplon region, in Goms, in the Gotthard region and in the upper Maggia valleys, 30 to 50 cm of snow has fallen. In the western Lower Valais, on the remaining main Alpine ridge as far as the Bernina, in the Jungfrau and Grimsel regions, in the remaining Ticino and in the Münstertal, 10 to 30 cm of snow fell, north of these regions less than 10 cm. The snow line was between 1000 and 1600 m. The new snow and snowdrift in the main precipitation areas is prone to triggering. In the remaining regions, particularly those places with shallow snowpack in the border areas of gullies and bowls are quite dangerous. Avalanches can sometimes fracture as far as the old snowpack.

Short-term development

On Thursday in the north, widespread 5 to 10 cm of snow will fall above approximately 1000 m. In the south and in the Engadine it will be sunny intermittently. The midday temperatures at 2000 m are minus 4 degrees in the north, minus 1 degree in the south. Light to moderate northeasterly winds will prevail.

Especially in areas adjacent to the ridge line and pass areas, fresh, rather small snowdrift accumulations will form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Northern flank of the Alps not including the northern Prealpes, Vaud and the Fribourg Alps; also the Valais; Ticino; Grisons:

Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)

Along the main Alpine ridge from the Simplon to the Bernina region and south thereof, the avalanche prone locations are primarily on southwest to north to southeast-facing steep slopes as well as areas adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Single persons can trigger avalanches. Careful route planning and prudent selection of touring routes are important. During the course of the day wet snow slides can be expected.

In the remaining regions of this danger level the avalanche prone locations are primarily on west to north to east-facing steep slopes as well as in areas adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The snowdrift of this last week can in part be released by single freeriders. In particular, transitions from shallow snowpack to deep snow in gullies and bowls are especially dangerous.

Northern Prealpes; Vaud and Fribourg Alps:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are primarily on west to north to southeast-facing steep slopes above approximately 1800 m. Especially shallow snowpack transitions into steep gullies and bowls must be judged critically.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Friday it will be rather sunny. On Saturday it will be sunny in the south only, a bit of snow will fall on the northern flank of the Alps. Nonetheless, the avalanche danger will slowly diminish.

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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