

National avalanche bulletin no. 103

from Saturday, 10 March 2007, 18:30 hours

Fresh, dangerous snowdrift accumulations

Current conditions

On Saturday there was widespread snowfall, except for along the southern flank of the Alps. During the day the weather was variable with additional minor snow showers. In the south, the sun was shining. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 6 degrees in the north and minus 3 degrees in the south. Moderate to strong northeasterly winds prevailed. On the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Prättigau, 25 to 35 cm of snow fell by Saturday midday, locally even more. In the Valais and the remaining regions of Grisons, 5 to 15 cm of snow fell. Moderate to strong northeasterly winds transported the loosely bonded snow intensely so that fresh snowdrift accumulations formed which were dangerous for freeriders. Furthermore, on north-facing slopes above approximately 2400 m, the snow layering, particularly in inneralpine regions, is weak.

Short-term development

Saturday night the skies will clear and on Sunday it will be sunny and mild. Temperatures will rise significantly in the course of the day, reaching plus 1 degree at midday at 2000 m. Moderate to strong northeasterly winds will prevail in the mountains. Through the fresh snow from Saturday, the wind, which will lead to moderately deep snowdrift accumulations, as well as the significantly higher temperatures, an extremely dangerous situation for triggering avalanches by freeriders will occur in many regions.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Regions north of the Rhone-Rhine line except for the Prealpes; also the Prättigau; the western Silvretta as well as the main Alpine ridge from Saastal to Bergell and northern Ticino:

Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are on steep slopes in all aspects. In the indicated regions along the northern flank of the Alps, the especially treacherous places are primarily above approximately 1800 m, in the remaining regions of this danger level above approximately 2000 m. Fresh snowdrift accumulations are particularly dangerous and easy to trigger. In addition, in the indicated regions on the main Alpine ridge and south thereof, the rather shallow snowpack transitions to steep slopes with deep snow must be given special heed. This applies especially to north-facing slopes.

In all the indicated regions, single persons can easily release avalanches. Great caution and restraint are important.

The remaining regions of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are on steep slopes in all aspects, primarily above approximately 2000 m, in the northern Prealpes above approximately 1800 m. In all regions, great caution should be exercised towards the rather small fresh snowdrift accumulations. They should be avoided where possible.

Also here, isolated avalanches can be triggered by single freeriders. Below 2600 m, however, the sliding snow masses are rather small. In all regions of this danger level, the avalanche danger increases with ascending altitude. Above approximately 2600 m, considerable avalanche danger can be expected.

In all regions, but in particular in those regions with new snow, wet, natural avalanches can be expected during the course of the day on sunny slopes.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday and Tuesday the weather will be pleasant and mild, springtime temperatures will prevail. The danger of dry avalanches will slowly decrease. The danger of wet avalanches will increase through the course of each day.

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

Sunday, 11. March 2007

Danger level

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

