

## National avalanche bulletin no. 111

from Sunday, 18 March 2007, 18:30 hours

*Through the return of winter, regional increase of avalanche danger*

### Current conditions

After a partly clear night, it was predominantly sunny on Sunday. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 2 degrees in the north and plus 4 degrees in Grisons and in the south. Light to moderate westerly winds prevailed, and were very gusty.

On south facing slopes, the snowpack is encrusted. On north facing slopes the snow in higher altitude zones is still powdery or wind pressed and brittle. In those places, the weak layers in the snowpack and the weak snow fundament, particularly in the inneralpine regions, are still prone to avalanches in places.

### Short-term development

Sunday night a cold front will move across the Swiss Alps. Temperatures will decrease significantly. Precipitation will set in. The snow line will descend from initially about 1500 m down to low lying areas. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 8 degrees. By Monday evening, the following amounts of new snow are anticipated: in western Valais and along the northern flank of the Alps, 20 to 40 cm; in the remaining Valais as well as north and central Grisons, 10 to 20 cm; further south, markedly less snowfall. Regionally moderate to strong westerly winds will prevail. Snowdrift accumulations will form which to begin with can easily be triggered.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Western and northern Valais; western part of the northern flank of the Alps except for the Prealpes:

*Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)*

The danger level "Considerable" will be reached in the course of the morning. The avalanche prone locations are primarily on northwest to north to south-facing snowdrift slopes above approximately 1800 m as well as in areas adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. Snowdrift accumulations can usually be released through small additional loading. Natural avalanches are unlikely.

Prealpes; the remaining Valais; central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps; Ticino and Grisons:

*Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are primarily on west to north to south-facing steep slopes as well as in areas adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. In the Prealpes, the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in the remaining Valais as well as in north and central Grisons, this will affect altitude zones above approximately 1800 m; in Ticino, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons, above approximately 2200 m.

In all regions of this danger level, on steep north facing slopes the old snow cover is in part still weakly bonded. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can fracture down to the ground and thereby reach medium size. In addition to that, during the course of the day fresh, easily triggered snowdrift accumulations will form. In the northern regions in particular, the avalanche danger can thus rise to the level "Considerable" here as well, in the afternoon.

### Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

It will continue to be cold and variable, with snow showers. Only in central Ticino and in Sottoceneri will it be dry. The avalanche danger will increase somewhat in the north and the east regionally.

**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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**Teletext:** Page 782 (SF DRS)

# Avalanche danger forecast

Monday, 19. March 2007

Danger level

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

