

National avalanche bulletin no. 112

from Monday, 19 March 2007, 18:30 hours

Widespread considerable avalanche danger in the north

Current conditions

On Sunday night winter returned with a sharp fall in temperatures and snowfall even at low altitudes. Since Sunday evening 20 to 40 cm of snow have fallen in Lower Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and Upper Engadine. In the rest of Valais, the Gotthard region and Northern Grisons the snowfall totalled 10 to 20 cm, but only a few centimetres fell elsewhere. On Monday the west and south initially enjoyed some bright spells, but snow arrived again from the west in the afternoon. In the east it was generally very cloudy. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 10 degrees in the north and minus 3 degrees in the south. The gusty wind was sometimes strong to gale force during the night, but quickly weakened. During the day it was weak to moderate from westerly to northerly directions.

The loosely bonded fresh snow on south facing slopes is lying on a melt-freeze crust in many places. On north facing slopes it is lying on a loosely bonded old snow surface in some places, and on a snowpack that has been compacted by the wind in others. In the inneralpine regions in particular, the weak base of the snowpack is still prone to triggering in some places.

Short-term development

By Tuesday evening a further 15 to 30 cm of snow will fall on the northern flank of the Alps and in Northern Grisons; up to 40 cm will fall on the northern flank of the Eastern and Central Swiss Alps. In northern Valais, the rest of the Gotthard region and Central Grisons the snowfall will total 10 to 20 cm, but less will fall elsewhere. The weather will remain cold; midday temperatures at 2000 m will reach about minus 10 degrees. The direction of the moderate to strong wind will change in the night to northerly and northeasterly. It will transport the loosely bonded fresh snow, and the size of the snow drift accumulations will increase.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Northern Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps; Northern Grisons; Silvretta; Samnaun, Upper Engadine; Bergell; Puschlav; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are wind-loaded slopes of all aspects. These locations lie above approximately 1800 m on the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Lower Valais, Northern Grisons, Silvretta and Samnaun, and above approximately 2200 m elsewhere. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released even by a single person. Natural avalanches are unlikely to occur. Experience in the assessment of the avalanche situation is required.

Rest of Valais; northern and central Ticino; Central Grisons; Val Moesa; Val Calanca; rest of Lower Engadine:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released easily, but generally in only small quantities. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons, the old snowpack remains weakly bonded on some steep north facing slopes. Full-depth slab avalanches can be released here and reach medium size. Careful route selection is recommended.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

The weather will remain cold and changeable, with snow showers in the west and north in particular. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.

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:
 Free telephone: 0800 800 187
 Free fax: 0800 800 188
Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>
Email: lwp@slf.ch
WAP: wap.slf.ch
Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Avalanche danger forecast

Tuesday, 20. March 2007

Danger level

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

