

National avalanche bulletin no. 116

from Friday, 23 March 2007, 18:30 hours

Particularly in the north considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Friday it was partially bright in the south, elsewhere it was overcast with intensely diffuse radiation. Along the northern flank of the Alps, 15 to 30 cm of loosely packed snow has fallen since Thursday evening, in the southern bordering areas, about 5 to 10 cm. On Friday, light to moderate westerly winds prevailed. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 8 degrees in the north and minus 5 degrees in the south.

Since Tuesday along the northern flank of the Alps and in Val de Bagnes, widespread 30 to 50 cm of snow has fallen. In the region of Hasliberg and from central Switzerland to Walensee, 90 cm of new snow fell, in the southern bordering areas, 10 to 30 cm. The fresh snow is loosely packed and usually well bonded with the old snow. In exposed places there are treacherous snowdrift accumulations which are sometimes difficult to recognize. Particularly in inneralpine regions, the weak snowpack fundament is prone to triggering in some places.

Short-term development

On Saturday in the Valais and the Ticino it will initially be still pleasant. In the north and in Grisons, it will be overcast and up to 10 cm of snow will fall. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be about minus 6 degrees. Weak bise winds will prevail. The fresh snow of recent days will continue to consolidate.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

The northern flank of the Alps; western and northern Lower Valais; northern Tavetsch; northern Surselva; northern Grisons; Upper Engadine and Bergell:

Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)

In the northern Prealpes, in the central part of the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren, as well as in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Prättigau, the avalanche prone locations are on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1600 m. In the Upper Engadine and in Bergell, the avalanche prone locations are primarily on snowdrift slopes in all aspects above approximately 2300 m. In all other regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m.

Snowdrift accumulations are critical and often difficult to recognize. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route planning are essential.

The remaining Valais; northern and central Ticino; the remaining areas of Grisons:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The fresh snowdrift can easily be triggered, although the amounts of released snow are usually small. Particularly in inneralpine areas, isolated fractures down to the old snow cover are possible.

Especially in the north, snow slides on the ground down into low lying altitude zones are possible.

Trend for Sunday and Monday






It will turn sunny and somewhat warmer. The avalanche danger will slowly diminish. On steep sunny slopes and in lower lying altitude zones, moist snow slides and avalanches can be expected.

Additional information: 'Fax-on-demand' (CHF 1.49/min.)	Regional avalanche bulletins (CHF 1.49/min.)	Feedback information:
0900 59 2020 List of fax aids SLF	0900 59 20 31 Central Switzerland	Free telephone: 0800 800 187
0900 59 2025 Snow Depths Map (in case of major change)	0900 59 20 32 Lower Valais / VD	Free fax: 0800 800 188
0900 59 2026 New Snow Map daily	0900 59 20 33 Upper Valais	Internet: http://www.slf.ch
0900 162 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss (CHF 2./min.)	0900 59 20 34 North and Central Grisons	Email: lwp@slf.ch
Weather Information in collaboration with MeteoSwiss	0900 59 20 35 South Grisons	WAP: wap.slf.ch
	0900 59 20 36 Bernese Oberland	Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)
	0900 59 20 37 Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps	

Avalanche danger forecast

Saturday, 24. March 2007

Danger level

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

