

National avalanche bulletin no. 117

from Saturday, 24 March 2007, 18:30 hours

Particularly on the northern flank of the Alps still considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Saturday in the Valais and in southern regions it was quite sunny. In northern regions there were increasingly sunny intervals during the course of the day. Light easterly winds prevailed. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 8 degrees in the north and minus 4 degrees in far western regions and in the south.

Since Wednesday 30 to 50 cm of snow has fallen in the northern Prealpes. In Lower Valais and along the remaining northern flank of the Alps it snowed about 15 to 30 cm, south of these regions somewhat less. The new snow is consolidating, yet particularly on north facing slopes is still loosely packed. In exposed places there are especially dangerous snowdrift accumulations. The weak snowpack fundament is prone to triggering in places, particularly in inneralpine regions.

Short-term development

On Sunday it will be overcast in southern regions and a bit of snow is expected. Elsewhere it will be quite sunny. During the course of the day, cumulonimbus clouds will form and isolated showers are possible. The midday temperature at 2000 m will rise to minus 2 degrees in northern regions. In southern regions it will be about minus 4 degrees. Moderate southeasterly winds will prevail and will increase in strength during the day.

The new snow of recent days continues to consolidate.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Northern flank of the Alps with the exception of Urseren; also northern Prättigau and western Silvretta:

Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Single persons can trigger avalanches. Snowdrift accumulations are especially dangerous and often difficult to recognize, since they are covered over by snow. Areas adjacent to the ridge line must be judged especially critically. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route planning are essential.

Valais; Urseren; northern and central Ticino; Grisons with the exception of northern Prättigau and western Silvretta:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

In the Valais, in Urseren and in Grisons except for Calanca, Misox, northern Prättigau and western Silvretta the avalanche prone locations are on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Areas adjacent to the ridge line are especially treacherous due to the snowdrift. Particularly in inneralpine regions, isolated fractures down to the old snow cover are possible. Prudent route selection is important.

In the central part of the southern flank of the Alps the avalanche prone locations are primarily on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m.

On steep sunny slopes frequent snow slides can be expected. In lower lying altitude zones, full depth wet snow slides on the ground continue to be anticipated.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday






It will be predominantly sunny. During the afternoon, cumulonimbus clouds and isolated showers are possible, particularly in southern regions. The avalanche danger will continue to diminish.

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

Sunday, 25. March 2007

Danger level

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

