

National avalanche bulletin no. 127

from Tuesday, 3 April 2007, 18:30 hours

Fresh snow and bise causing slight increase in avalanche danger in the north

Current conditions

Tuesday was mostly cloudy on the northern flank of the Alps, and showers gave rise to a few centimetres of snow in some places. Valais, Ticino and Grisons had some bright spells. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 1 degree in the north and plus 3 degrees in the south. The northerly wind was light.

The snow line on north facing slopes in the north is between 800 and 1200 m; in the south it is between 1200 and 1800 m. On south facing slopes the snow line is generally 400 to 600 m higher. Powder snow is still lying on some north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. A breakable crust or corn snow is widespread elsewhere. In the inneralpine regions in particular, the snowpack has a weak base on many north facing slopes, which can give rise to avalanches with large fracture depths.

Short-term development

On Tuesday night some snow will fall in many areas. On the northern flank of the Alps above approximately 1600 m, 10 to 20 cm of snow will fall during showers and thunderstorms. Up to 10 cm of snow will fall in Grisons, but only a few centimetres elsewhere. The snowfall level will drop during the night, from 1800 m to approximately 1000 m. In the afternoon the weather will brighten up in Valais and Grisons in particular. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 4 degrees in the north and minus 2 degrees in the south. The wind direction will change to easterly. The wind will be generally moderate, but occasionally strong in the northern prealps.

The wind will transport the fresh snow, and snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering will form adjacent to the ridge line and on lee slopes in the areas with new snow.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; northern Ticino; Grisons excluding Lower Val Moesa and Lower Val Calanca:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

On the northern flank of the Alps excluding the Gotthard region, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to easy release in some cases and are to be avoided as far as possible.

In the other regions subject to this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on southwest to north to northeast facing steep slopes and adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects above approximately 2400 m. Especially on very steep north facing slopes, snow sport participants are to continue engaging in activities one at a time, with spacing between individuals. Fresh, small snow drift accumulations must be evaluated with care and prudence.

Central Ticino; Lower Val Moesa and Lower Val Calanca:

Low avalanche danger (level 1)

The solar radiation will increase the danger of wet avalanches in the afternoon, especially in the west.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

The weather will be sunny with mild, spring-like temperatures. The wind will be moderate from the northeast. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. The danger of wet avalanches will increase during the 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

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

Wednesday, 4. April 2007

