

National avalanche bulletin no. 129

from Thursday, 5 April 2007, 18:30 hours

Generally favourable avalanche situation, caution towards daytime cycle

Current conditions

Thursday it was mostly sunny in the Swiss Alps. It turned significantly milder and midday temperatures at 2000 m were between zero and plus 2 degrees. Light to moderate easterly winds prevailed.

The new snow and snowdrift of the last few days on the northern flank of the Alps and in southern Valais is settling and consolidating. The snowpack surface has become moist up to approximately 3000 m on steep sunny slopes. Especially in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons the snowpack fundament on north facing slopes is often weak, which can lead to avalanches of greater fracture depths.

The high mountains have had lots of snow, particularly in western and northern regions. However in central Valais, central Grisons and the Engadine, in particular, there is relatively little snow on the glaciers. The glacier crevasses in many places have only thin, usually hard snowbridges.

Short-term development

Following a clear night it will be sunny and even a bit milder still on Good Friday. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between plus 2 and plus 4 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly to easterly winds will prevail.

Generally the snowpack will be capable of bearing loads in the morning and on steep north facing slopes there is still powder snow in many places. On the northern flank of the Alps and in those areas of the Upper Valais with new snow, a melt freeze crust is forming on the snowpack surface of sunny slopes which is generally still fragile. In the course of the day, the snowpack will lose its strength in the layers near the surface due to the daytime warming and radiation, especially on steep sunny slopes.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps except for the Prealpes; also the Valais; northern Ticino; Grisons except for lower Misox and lower Calancatal:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

Along the northern flank of the Alps excluding the Gotthard region as well as in the upper Vispertäler and the southern Simplon region, the avalanche prone locations are primarily on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. The snowdrift of recent days can for the most part be triggered through high additional loading.

In the remaining regions of this danger level the avalanche prone locations are primarily on northwest to north to northeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2400 m.

Particularly in the indicated aspects and altitude zones, maintaining distances between persons and single descents are recommended.

Northern Prealpes; central and southern Ticino; lower Misox and lower Calancatal:

Low Avalanche Danger (Level 1)

In all regions the danger of wet avalanches will rise in the course of the day. On steep sunny slopes below about 2800 m increasingly frequent moist snow slides can be expected. Below about 2400 m wet avalanches are also possible. In the regions with new snow and in the inneralpine regions wet avalanches can ever more frequently attain medium size.

Trend for Saturday and Easter Sunday

It will be sunny and in the morning favourable conditions for backcountry touring will prevail. The danger of dry avalanches will diminish. In the course of each day the danger of wet avalanches will rise. Full depth slab avalanches are regionally possible.

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

Friday, 6. April 2007

In the course of the day danger of:
wet snow avalanches < 2400 m
moist slides < 2800 m

Danger level

-  1 LOW
-  2 MODERATE
-  3 considerable
-  4 high
-  5 very high

