

National avalanche bulletin no. 23

for Saturday, 1 December 2007 issue date 30.11.2007, 18:30 hours

Generally favourable conditions, special caution with fresh snowdrift accumulations

Current conditions

On Friday it was quite sunny in southern regions, overcast in the north. On the northern flank of the Alps there was intermittent light snowfall. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 1 degree in northern regions, about plus 3 degrees in the south. Moderate westerly to northwesterly winds prevailed, in eastern regions they were sporadically even strong. Locally, fresh, small sized snowdrift accumulations formed. The snow layering is favourable in many places. Isolated weak spots are present in the uppermost levels of the snowpack in snowdrift or in crusts. Isolated avalanche triggering from the base of the snowpack in old snow which has grown in faceted snow crystals is possible on north facing slopes above approximately 2500 m in particular.

Short-term development

On Saturday morning it will be predominantly sunny. In the course of the day, clouds are expected to move in quickly from the west and north. A few centimeters of snowfall is possible. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be zero degrees. Strong westerly winds will prevail, causing fresh snowdrift accumulations to form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Swiss Alps not including northern Prealpes:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealpes, on the main Alpine ridge, in Grisons as well as in northern and central Ticino, the avalanche prone locations are found in west to north to southeast facing gullies and bowls above approximately 2200 m in particular. In the Engadine the avalanche prone locations are somewhat more widespread than in the other regions. The snowdrift should generally be assessed with caution.

In the remaining western regions of this danger level the avalanche prone locations are found in west to north to southeast facing areas adjacent to ridge lines, gullies and bowls above approximately 2400 m. The generally small sized snowdrift accumulations can, in particular, sweep skiers along and cause them to fall.

In all regions of this danger level, steep north facing slopes above approximately 2500 m should be judged with caution, since isolated avalanche triggering from the base of the snowpack is possible. This is particularly the case in areas with below average snow depths.

Northern Prealpes:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are found in snowdrift, especially in areas adjacent to ridge lines.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

In northern regions it will be overcast on Sunday. On Monday snowfall is expected in western and northern regions. In the south it will remain predominantly sunny. The avalanche danger will increase in northern regions on Monday.

Additional information: 'Fax-on-demand' (CHF 1.49/min)		Regional avalanche bulletins (CHF 1.49/min)		Internet: http://www.slf.ch
0900 59 2020	List of fax aids SLF	0900 59 20 31	Central Switzerland	WAP: wap.slf.ch
0900 59 2025	Snow Depths Map (in case of major change)	0900 59 20 32	Lower Valais / VD	Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)
0900 59 2026	New Snow Map daily	0900 59 20 33	Upper Valais	Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)
		0900 59 20 34	North and Central Grisons	Feedback information:
Weather Information in collaboration with MeteoSwiss 0900 5		0900 59 20 35	South Grisons	Email: lwp@slf.ch
0900 162 138 / 338	Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax	0900 59 20 36	Bernese Oberland	Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88
	(phone: CHF 1.20/min) (fax: CHF 2/min)	0900 59 20 37	Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps	

