

National avalanche bulletin no. 57

for Friday, 4 January 2008

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Considerable avalanche danger regionally

Current conditions

On Thursday it was mostly cloudy in northern regions, with bright spots caused by foehn winds. In southern regions it was heavily overcast. Between Wednesday and Thursday afternoon on the southern flank of the Alps, 10 to 20 cm of snow fell. On the remaining Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn to the Ofenpass, there was up to 10 cm of snowfall. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 2 degrees in western regions, minus 5 degrees in eastern regions and minus 10 degrees in the south. Moderate south winds prevailed in southern regions, elsewhere they were moderate to strong. In valleys subject to them, the foehn winds were at times of storm strength.

On the southern flank of the Alps, new fallen snow covered the surface hoar. Particularly in areas near to ridges in southern regions, new, generally soft snowdrift accumulations formed. On the Main Alpine Ridge and in northern regions the old snow was transported and new, generally small sized, compact snowdrift accumulations formed.

Short-term development

The foehn storms are expected to continue in northern regions and it will remain predominantly overcast. On the southern flank of the Alps 20 to 40 cm of snow will fall as far down as the valleys by Friday evening. On the remaining Main Alpine Ridge, in the Puschlav and the Münstertal 5 to 20 cm of snow is expected, in the regions bordering them to the north only a few centimeters. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between minus 1 degree in northern regions and minus 7 degrees in the south. In valleys subject to foehn winds, it will be very mild. Strong southerly winds will prevail.

The frequency of snowdrift accumulations prone to triggering will continue to rise.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern Alpine Ridge; Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn to the Bernina region; Puschlav;
northern Ticino:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to southeast facing slopes above approximately 2000 m in particular. On the Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn to the Bernina region and in the indicated regions south thereof, they are found primarily on wind loaded slopes, elsewhere in gullies and bowls in particular. Single backcountry skiers and freeriders can trigger slab avalanches.

Remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais and Grisons; central and southern Ticino:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are found on wind loaded slopes in particular. In the indicated regions of the northern flank of the Alps, in central and southern Ticino, in lower Calanca and lower Misox, they are found in all aspects above approximately 1600 m, elsewhere primarily on southwest to north to southeast facing slopes above approximately 1800 m. Sluffs and small avalanches are particularly prone to triggering on shady slopes, in places even by single persons. When visibility is good the avalanche prone locations are easily spotted. Prudent route planning is recommended.

Particularly in western and northern regions below about 2400 m, extremely isolated full depth wet snowslides are possible. This is especially the case in places where the snowpack has opened a glide crack.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

In southern regions it will continue to snow until Saturday evening. On Sunday it will be variable and snowfall is expected particularly in northern and western regions. The winds will slacken off noticeably and temperatures will rise in southern regions as well. The avalanche danger will continue to rise regionally.

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

Weather Information in collaboration with MeteoSwiss

0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax
(phone: CHF 1.20/min) (fax: CHF 2.--/min)

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

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

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Danger level

