

National avalanche bulletin no. 91

for Thursday, 7 February 2008

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Strong northerly winds create new snowdrift accumulations

Current conditions

Early on Wednesday morning on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in Grisons, it began to snow. On the southern flank of the Alps and in the Engadine, there were extended bright spots. Above approximately 1500 m in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, up to 20 cm of snow fell. In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and in Lower Valais, there was 5 to 10 cm of snow. In the remaining regions, there was hardly any snowfall. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 1 degree in northern regions and plus 3 degrees in southern regions. On the northern flank of the Alps and in western regions, moderate to strong westerly winds prevailed, in the remaining regions they were light to moderate.

Particularly on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais, new, small to medium sized snowdrift accumulations have formed which can be triggered. Especially in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, the snowpack is moderately well consolidated in places.

Short-term development

On Wednesday night in eastern regions a few centimeters of snow is expected. Subsequently it will turn quite sunny, as it already is in the other regions. Winds will shift to northerly. Particularly along the central and eastern Main Alpine Ridge, winds will be intermittently of storm strength, elsewhere moderate to strong. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 3 degrees.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps; Main Alpine Ridge from the Gotthard to the Bernina region; southern Simplon region; northern Ticino; Puschlav:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps not including the Gotthard region are found on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. In the remaining regions of this danger level, they are found on west to north to south facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 1800 m. Particularly the new snowdrift accumulations can be triggered even by single backcountry skiers and freeriders. Both prudent route planning and extensive experience in assessing avalanche danger are imperative.

Prealps; remaining Valais; remaining regions of Grisons; central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations of the indicated regions of the Valais and the remaining regions of north and central Grisons, the Engadine and the Münstertal are found on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. In the Prealps, in central Ticino, in lower Calanca valley and Misox, as well as in Sotto Ceneri, they are found on west to north to south facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 1800 m. Also here, the new, rather small sized snowdrift accumulations can be triggered by single backcountry skiers and freeriders; thus, they must be assessed very critically.

Through the solar radiation, increasing numbers of moist sluffs can be expected on steep, south facing slopes. Isolated full depth wet snowslides are also possible.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Friday and Saturday it will be predominantly sunny. The avalanche danger will gradually subside.

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

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

Feedback information:






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Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 7. February 2008

Danger level

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

