

National avalanche bulletin no. 92

for Friday, 8 February 2008

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Considerable avalanche danger persists in some regions

Current conditions

On Thursday morning some residual snow fell in the east. The weather was fairly sunny afterwards, as it was already in the other regions. Since Wednesday, 15 to 30 cm of snow has fallen on the northern flank of the Alps east of the Grimsel region, in northern Grisons and in Lower Engadine. Less than 10 cm of snow has fallen in the other regions. In the far south it remained dry. Midday temperatures at 2000 m ranged from 0 degrees in the west and south to minus 8 degrees in the east. The northerly wind was generally light, but moderate at times on the main ridge of the Central and Eastern Swiss Alps.

As a general rule, the fresh snow in the northeastern regions has been influenced by the wind and is well bonded only at high altitudes. The near- surface layers of the snow drift accumulations are becoming increasingly stable in all regions. Faceted, weakly bonded layers exist in the snowpack in the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons in particular.

Short-term development

Friday will be sunny. The wind will be moderate from the northeast. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about plus 2 degrees in the west and 0 degrees in the east.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Eastern Swiss Alps excluding the Prealps; northern Surselva; Flims-Untervaz; Prättigau; Silvretta; Samnaun:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released by a single person and must be critically assessed.

Remaining areas of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

In the Prealps, on the northern flank of the Western and Central Swiss Alps, in western Lower Valais and northern Valais, and on the main ridge of the Central Swiss Alps and to the south, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to southeast facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered, especially by large additional loads, at transitions to parts of the terrain that have been filled by snow drifts.

In the remaining areas of Valais and Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m. In areas with rather shallow snow cover, isolated avalanches can still be released in deep layers of the snowpack.

The solar radiation and warming will increase the likelihood of small wet snow slides and avalanches on steep south facing slopes. Isolated full-depth wet snow slides are possible.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

It will be mostly sunny on Saturday and Sunday. The avalanche danger will continue to decrease slowly.

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

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Avalanche danger forecast

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