

## National avalanche bulletin no. 93

for Saturday, 9 February 2008

issue date 8.2.2008, 18:30 hours

### *Generally favourable conditions for winter sports*

#### Current conditions

Friday was sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 m varied between plus 2 degrees in the west and minus 1 degree in the east and south. The wind was light to moderate from the northeast.

On shady slopes, snow is widespread above approximately 1000 m. On the northern flank of the Western Swiss Alps and in Sotto Ceneri, the snow line is approximately 200 m to 400 m higher. The snow surface and distribution vary widely between regions. On very steep sunny slopes below approximately 2500 m in the west and 2000 m in the east, a brittle melt-freeze crust has formed in many areas. In the Prealps and on the northern flank of the Western Swiss Alps, rain has formed a crust on the snowpack up to medium altitudes. At higher altitudes the snowpack has been significantly influenced by the wind. In the other regions, especially in protected shady aspects, the snow remains powdery. The higher the altitude, the greater the likelihood of encountering a snow surface that has been compacted by the wind and is hard in some places, especially on the main Alpine ridge. Faceted, weakly bonded layers exist in the snowpack in the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons in particular.

#### Short-term development

Saturday will be sunny. The northeasterly wind will be mainly moderate, but sometimes strong in the high alpine regions. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about plus 2 degrees in the west and 0 degrees in the east and south.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps excluding Sotto Ceneri:

##### *Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in west to north to southeast facing aspects above approximately 2000 m. On the northern Alpine ridge and in Valais, northern and central Ticino and Grisons, they are to be found on steep slopes. In the other regions subject to this danger level, critical locations exist in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls.

Avalanches can be triggered, especially by large additional loads. In particular in central Valais, southern Upper Valais, central Grisons, Engadine and Münstertal, isolated, even medium-sized avalanches can still be released in deep layers of the snowpack in areas with shallow snow cover. In the other regions, near-surface layers of the fairly recent snow drift accumulations can still be released as avalanches, especially at transitions to parts of the terrain that have been filled by snow drifts.

Sotto Ceneri:

##### *Low avalanche danger (level 1)*

Isolated small avalanches and sluffs can be triggered in extremely steep, shady gullies and bowls in particular.

The solar radiation and warming will increase the likelihood of small wet snow slides on extremely steep south facing slopes.

#### Trend for Sunday and Monday

The mostly sunny weather will continue on Saturday and Sunday. The avalanche danger will 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

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

**WAP:** [wap.slf.ch](http://wap.slf.ch)

**Teletext:** Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

**Feedback information:**

Email: [lw@slf.ch](mailto:lw@slf.ch)

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

# Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 9. February 2008

Danger level

1 LOW

2 MODERATE

3 considerable

4 high

5 very high

