

National avalanche bulletin no. 97

for Wednesday, 13 February 2008

issue date 12.2.2008, 18:30 hours

Favourable avalanche situation

Current conditions

On Tuesday it remained sunny with very good visibility over a long distance. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 1 degree. The easterly wind was mostly light, but moderate at times.

The quality of the near-surface layers of the snowpack depends on the solar radiation. On very steep south facing slopes, a melt-freeze crust has formed in many areas. It is generally strong in the mornings, but prone to melting during the day before refreezing. On the northern flank of the Alps and in the high-altitude regions of the main Alpine ridge in particular, the snowpack has also been significantly influenced by the earlier wind. In places that are protected from the wind and shady, however, powder snow is still to be found in all regions.

Faceted, weakly bonded layers exist in the snowpack in the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons in particular. This applies, in particular, in areas with shallow snow cover close to the tree line and in areas above the tree line that are protected from the wind. In these places, skis can often penetrate the snow down to the ground.

Short-term development

The weather will remain sunny on Wednesday. There will be a light easterly wind. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 1 degree.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Inneralpine regions of Grisons, namely: southern Surselva including Lugnez, Valsertal and Safiental, Schanfigg, Domleschg-Lenzerheide, Schams, Davos region, Albulatal, Oberhalbstein, St. Moritz, Plaiv, Val Chamuera, Münstertal, and Lower Engadine excluding Silvretta and Samnaun:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on northwest to north to northeast facing very steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. Especially in areas with shallow snow cover and on slopes that have been little used this winter, slab avalanches can still be released in deep layers of the snowpack. Rumbling noises can be an indication of unfavourable bonding of the snowpack in some places. On very steep shady slopes, snow sport participants are to engage in activities one at a time.

Remaining areas of the Swiss Alps:

Low avalanche danger (level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are still to be found, in particular, in extremely steep, shady gullies and bowls. In this terrain, even a snow slide can sweep people along and then give rise to falls. In these areas, snow sport participants are to engage in activities with caution and one at a time.

In view of the solar radiation, small wet snow slides are to be expected on very steep sunny slopes, and in particular arising from terrain that is interspersed with rocks, below approximately 2600 m. Isolated full-depth wet snow slides are also possible.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday and Friday the weather will remain sunny. 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

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Avalanche danger forecast

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