

National avalanche bulletin no. 101

for Sunday, 17 February 2008

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Low avalanche danger in all regions

Current conditions

On Saturday it was sunny everywhere, with the exception of the foggy cloud formations in southern regions. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were zero degrees in western regions and minus 4 degrees in eastern regions. Light to moderate northeasterly winds prevailed. Particularly at high altitudes, small sized snowdrift accumulations formed.

On steep slopes melt-freeze crusts are evident widespread, which are capable of bearing loads in the morning hours and form corn snow during the day. In wind-protected, shady zones there is powder snow. In areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas, as well as at high altitudes, the snowpack is strongly affected by the wind.

Faceted, poorly consolidated layers are evident in the snowpack particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons. However, triggering avalanches is becoming ever less likely. In the remaining regions, the snow layering is generally favourable.

Short-term development

On Sunday, the sunny weather brought about by the high pressure zone will continue. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 2 to minus 4 degrees. Moderate northeasterly winds will prevail.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are found in very steep, shady gullies and bowls in particular. In these areas, even a sluff can sweep along backcountry skiers and freeriders and lead to a fall. Caution should be exercised in such spots; moreover, they should be skied by one person at a time.

In addition, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons on shady slopes above approximately 2000 m, slab avalanches can still be triggered in lower layers of the snowpack. This is particularly the case in places where hardened snow layers are deposited atop faceted, poorly consolidated layers as well as on steep slopes which have been seldom used thus far this winter. Whumpfung sounds are often indicators of the unfavourable snow layering. Very steep, shady slopes should be skied by one person at a time.

During the course of the day on steep south facing slopes, isolated wet snowslides are possible.

Completely apart from the time of day, isolated full depth wet snowslides are also possible. Open glide cracks are indicators of the danger.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

The sunny weather will continue. The avalanche danger will continue to remain low and the backcountry skiing and freeriding conditions good.

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

for Sunday, 17. February 2008

Danger level

 **1 LOW**

 **2 moderate**

 **3 considerable**

 **4 high**

 **5 very high**

