

National avalanche bulletin no. 115

for Sunday, 2 March 2008

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Considerable danger of wet and dry avalanches regionally

Current conditions

On Saturday it was overcast, amid precipitation in northern regions in particular, with the snowfall level between 2200 and 1600 m. Above approximately 2400 m it has snowed 10 to 20 cm on the northern flank of the Alps since Friday; in Lower Valais and from Prättigau over the Silvretta to the Samnaun, 5 to 10 cm; elsewhere less. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were between zero degrees in northern regions and plus 5 degrees on the southern flank of the Alps. Strong to stormy, very gusty westerly to northwesterly winds prevailed.

Particularly in the regions with new snow, fresh snowdrift accumulations have formed. On east to south to west facing slopes the snowpack is thoroughly wet up to high altitudes, on flat fields up to about 2000 m. On north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m the snow is still dry.

Short-term development

On Saturday night it will be predominantly overcast. Then it will clear up from the west in the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps, subsequently also on the northern flank of the Alps. In the eastern regions, just a few centimeters of snow is expected. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between zero degrees in northern regions and plus 3 degrees in southern regions. The strong to stormy westerly to northwesterly winds will continue.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Regions north of the Rhone-Rhine line not including Prealps; in addition, Prättigau; Silvretta and Samnaun:

Considerable danger of dry avalanches (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are found on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2400 m in particular. Snowdrift accumulations can be triggered by single persons or, in isolated cases, naturally released. For that reason, they should be avoided.

Remaining regions of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate danger of dry avalanches (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are found in northwest to north to southwest facing gullies and bowls above 2400 m in particular. Backcountry skiers and freeriders can trigger small sized avalanches and be swept along.

Prudent route selection is essential.

The hazard of wet avalanches is considerable (Level 3) all day long on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais, in the Gotthard region, in northern and central Grisons and in the Lower Engadine. In the remaining regions the danger of wet avalanches is moderate (Level 2), although subject to a certain daytime cycle in those regions. Wet avalanches and full depth snowslides can be expected below about 2400 m in multiple starting zones which have not yet been discharged in particular. In isolated cases, exposed sections of transportation routes, e.g. ski runs and pass roads, can be placed at risk.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Sunday night it will be predominantly clear. During the day on Monday it will then be quite sunny, before new clouds move in from the northwest. On Monday night it will snow after temperatures in northern regions below 1000 m decrease noticeably. During the day on Tuesday, bright spots are anticipated, in southern regions it will be quite sunny. The avalanche danger will be more favourable on Monday and subject to a daytime curve, on Tuesday it will increase regionally.

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:

Email: lwp@slf.ch






Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 2. March 2008

Below 2400 m wet avalanches and full depth snowslides can be expected throughout the whole day.

Danger level

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

