

National avalanche bulletin no. 121

for Saturday, 8 March 2008

issue date 7.3.2008, 18:30 hours

Moderate avalanche danger widespread

Current conditions

On Friday it was predominantly overcast. The midday temperature at 2000 m in Grisons was zero degrees, elsewhere it was plus 2 degrees. Generally weak southeasterly winds prevailed, while on the northern flank of the Alps and in Upper Valais they were intermittently of moderate strength.

Through the solar radiation and the continuous warming, the new snow and snowdrift of this week were able to stabilise incrementally. On the northern flank of the Alps, the southeasterly winds transported the somewhat loosely packed snow and formed new, mostly small sized snowdrift accumulations.

Short-term development

On Friday night it will be cloudy. During the day on Saturday it will turn increasingly sunny from the west. In Ticino and southern Grisons it will be only partly sunny. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between minus 4 degrees in northern regions and minus 2 degrees in southern regions. Light winds will prevail. Particularly in western regions, the layers of snow nearest the surface will become moist through solar radiation and lose their firmness.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais not including upper Saastal and southern Simplon region; in addition, Gotthard region and Grisons not including Val Calanca, Misox, Bergell and Puschlav:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

On the northern flank of the Alps from the Bernese Oberland to the Alpstein region, the avalanche prone locations are found on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m in particular. The snowdrift accumulations of this week, which are quite large in places, can be triggered primarily by large additional loading.

In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes in particular. In the Vaud and Fribourg Alps and from northern Valais over the Gotthard region and the northern Surselva to northern Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are found above approximately 2000 m. In southern Valais, in central Grisons, in the Engadine and in the Münstertal they are found above approximately 2200 m. The snowdrift accumulations of this week tend to be small sized and can be avoided by careful route selection.

Upper Saastal; southern Simplon region; central part of the southern flank of the Alps not including Gotthard region; in addition, Bergell and Puschlav:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are found in extremely steep, shady gullies and bowls in particular.

Due to the solar radiation, wet snowslides on steep, sunny slopes can be expected in western and northern regions in particular.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday clouds will move in from the west in the course of the day. In southern regions it will be overcast and as of midday a bit of snow is expected. On Monday, following final bright intervals in areas subject to foehn winds, it will be cloudy; some snowfall is expected primarily in southern regions. The avalanche danger will diminish slightly until Sunday and then increase on Monday, particularly in southern regions.

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>

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