

National avalanche bulletin no. 123

for Monday, 10 March 2008

issue date 9.3.2008, 18:30 hours

Increased avalanche danger due to snowfall and storm winds

Current conditions

On Sunday it was partly sunny in western and northern regions. In southern regions it was heavily overcast, and during the afternoon it began to snow lightly. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 3 degrees. Light to moderate southerly winds prevailed. The new snow and snowdrift of this last week have settled well and become stable. The snow layers near the surface are still loosely packed above approximately 2400 m, especially on shady slopes. On sunny slopes the surface layer is moistened. Especially in western and northern regions, surface hoar has formed on the uppermost layer in places.

Short-term development

On Sunday night it will be heavily overcast and snow is expected widespread. On Monday on the southern flank of the Alps a barrier effect will take over and the snowfall will become heavier. In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps as well as in the Valais, the foehn wind will initially influence weather conditions, creating ongoing bright spots. In the course of the day, it will start to snow again, including in northern regions. By Monday evening above approximately 1200 m, the following amounts of snow are expected: Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn to the Gotthard region, central part of the southern flank of the Alps and Bergell, 20 to 40 cm, in western Ticino, locally even more; western Lower Valais, Upper Engadine, Puschlav and Münstertal, 10 to 20 cm; elsewhere up to 10 cm. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 2 degrees. The winds will intensify during the night and on Monday strong to stormy southerly to southwesterly winds will prevail. In southern regions the new fallen snow will be transported; in northern regions the old snow will be transported in the course of the day. Increasing numbers of trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Central part of the southern flank of the Alps not including southern Ticino; in addition, Simplon region:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes and areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas in all aspects above approximately 2000 m in particular. The level "considerable" will be reached in the course of the morning hours. Single persons can trigger slab avalanches.

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais not including southern Simplon region; in addition, southern Ticino; Grisons not including Val Calanca and Misox:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

In Chablais, in Trient and in Champex, as well as on the remaining Main Alpine Ridge from Grand St. Bernard to the Bernina, in southern Ticino, in Upper Engadine, in Puschlav and in the Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. In the remaining regions, the avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes as well as in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all aspects above approximately 2000 m in particular.

Snowdrift accumulations will form with increasing frequency. They will be easy to trigger. Thus, the avalanche danger will continue to escalate during the course of the day.

Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On both days the weather will be variable, amid additional snowfall and strong winds. In southern regions it will be partly sunny. The avalanche danger will continue to increase in western and northern regions in particular.

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

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Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 10. March 2008

Danger level

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

