

National avalanche bulletin no. 126

for Thursday, 13 March 2008

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Considerable avalanche danger widespread

Current conditions

On Wednesday, south of the Main Alpine Ridge it was partly sunny, elsewhere it was generally heavily overcast. From Tuesday to Wednesday afternoon above approximately 2200 m, 10 to 30 cm of snow fell widespread. The snowfall level rose temporarily to 2200 m, otherwise it was at 1800 m. Since Sunday the following amounts of snow have fallen: southern flank of the Alps not including Münstertal, 50 to 70 cm; western Lower Valais, Vaud Alps, western Bernese Alps, remaining Gotthard region and Main Alpine Ridge from Lukmanier Pass to the Münstertal, 30 to 50 cm; in the remaining regions, 10 to 30 cm. The midday temperatures at 2000 m on Wednesday were plus 1 degree in northern regions and plus 3 degrees in southern regions. Strong to stormy, very gusty westerly winds prevailed in the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, elsewhere the winds were moderate to strong.

At high altitudes in western and northern regions in particular, additional snowdrift accumulations have formed. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, the old snowpack is only moderately well consolidated on north facing slopes. Below about 2000 m the snowpack has become thoroughly wet from the rain, which has led to frequent wet snow avalanches being triggered.

Short-term development

Until Thursday morning about 10 cm of snow is expected widespread. During the day it will initially be bright in the Valais and in southern regions, elsewhere generally heavily overcast. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 4 degrees. The storm strength northwesterly winds will slacken off during the night and maintain moderate strength during the day on Thursday.

Additional snowdrift accumulations are expected to form. The bonding between the various, at times deep new snow and snowdrift layers of recent days is weak in most places.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; northern Ticino; Grisons:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are found in all aspects. On the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren the avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. In the Valais not including Chablais, on the Main Alpine Ridge from the Furka Pass to Bergell, in northern Ticino, in Val Calanca and in Misox, the avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes above approximately 2200 m. Natural avalanches which can attain medium size are still possible, particularly during the night. In the remaining regions of Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are on wind loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m in particular.

In all regions of this danger level, single persons can easily trigger avalanches in places. The assessment of the avalanche situation and the selection of a route each require a great deal of experience.

Central and southern Ticino:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m.

Below about 2200 m full depth wet snowslides and, particularly at night, natural wet avalanches can still release. Backcountry skiers and freeriders can trigger wet snow avalanches on very steep slopes.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Friday some snowfall is anticipated in northern region. In southern regions it will be partly sunny. On Saturday it will be sunny and very mild in northern regions. In southern regions it will turn increasingly cloudy. The avalanche danger is expected to diminish, although in northern regions it will recede only slowly. On Saturday, the danger of wet snow avalanches will increase markedly in the course of the day.

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: lw@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 13. March 2008

Danger level

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

