

National avalanche bulletin no. 127

for Friday, 14 March 2008

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Ongoing considerable avalanche danger widespread

Current conditions

On Wednesday night in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps to Samnaun, 10 to 15 cm of snow fell, elsewhere less. During the day it was heavily overcast on the northern flank of the Alps. In the Valais and in northern Grisons it was variably cloudy and in southern regions, sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 were minus 4 degrees in northern regions and plus 2 degrees in southern regions. Strong to stormy westerly to northwesterly winds prevailed to begin with, later on they were moderate to strong.

Since Sunday in western and northern Lower Valais, in the Simplon region, as well as in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, there has been 50 to 70 cm of snow, elsewhere 30 to 50 cm widespread. Amid strong to stormy southerly, and later on westerly winds, deep snowdrift accumulations have formed in some places. The various snowdrift layers and old snowpack are still poorly bonded to each other in places. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can fracture down to the weak old snowpack on shady slopes. Below about 2000 m the snowpack is thoroughly wet beneath the layer of new snow.

Short-term development

On Thursday night it will be cloudy in all except southern regions. During the day on Friday it will turn increasingly sunny in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, as it already has in the Valais and in southern regions. From the central part of the northern flank of the Alps to the Engadine it will remain heavily overcast. From central Switzerland over northern Grisons to the Samnaun, about 5 cm of snow is expected. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be zero degrees in northern regions and plus 3 degrees in southern regions. Moderate to strong westerly to northwesterly winds will prevail.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

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

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to south facing steep slopes in particular, on the northern flank of the Alps above approximately 2000, elsewhere above approximately 2200 m. Avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, including the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Both the assessment of the avalanche situation and the route selection require extensive experience.

Central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to south facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered primarily by large additional loading.

Particularly in western and southern regions on sunny slopes below about 2400 m, moist sluffs and wet avalanches can be triggered through the daytime warming curve.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday






On Saturday it will be quite sunny and in northern regions very mild, with temperatures of about plus 6 degrees at 2000 m. In southern regions, clouds will move in. On Sunday it will be heavily overcast and above approximately 1500 m snowfall is anticipated. On Saturday the danger of wet snow avalanches will rise noticeably during the course of the day. The hazards of dry avalanches will continue to diminish gradually on Saturday, before increasing again on Sunday.

Additional information: 'Fax-on-demand' (CHF 1.49/min)		Regional avalanche bulletins (CHF 1.49/min)	Internet: http://www.slf.ch
0900 59 2020	List of fax aids SLF	0900 59 20 31	Central Switzerland
0900 59 2025	Snow Depths Map (in case of major change)	0900 59 20 32	Lower Valais / VD
0900 59 2026	New Snow Map daily	0900 59 20 33	Upper Valais
Weather Information in collaboration with MeteoSwiss		0900 59 20 34	North and Central Grisons
0900 162 138 / 338	Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax	0900 59 20 35	South Grisons
	(phone: CHF 1.20/min) (fax: CHF 2.--/min)	0900 59 20 36	Bernese Oberland
		0900 59 20 37	Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps
			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 Friday, 14. March 2008

Danger level

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

