

National avalanche bulletin no. 129

for Sunday, 16 March 2008

issue date 15.3.2008, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger regionally

Current conditions

On Saturday it was generally sunny, disturbed only by some cirrostratus clouds. In the afternoon, clouds moved in from the west. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 6 degrees in northern regions and plus 3 in southern regions. Light to moderate southwesterly winds prevailed.

On sunny slopes up to high altitudes the snow has become moist on the surface. The snowpack has settled quite well. Particularly on shady slopes between the various, older snowdrift layers, weak layers are still evident. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can fracture down to the weak old snowpack on shady slopes.

Short-term development

On Saturday night precipitation will start in the west and spread throughout all regions of the Swiss Alps. During the day on Sunday there will be repeated snow showers, in the afternoon they will also be intensive in western regions. Intermittently, particularly in German Switzerland and towards evening also in southern regions, there will be bright spots. By Sunday evening in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, in Lower Valais and in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, about 20 cm of snow is expected; in Chablais, up to 40 cm; in the remaining regions, between 5 and 15 cm of snow is anticipated. The snowfall level will drop from 2200 m down to about 1300 m. Strong to stormy westerly winds will prevail.

Snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering will form. They will blanket older snowdrift accumulations and make them difficult to recognize.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Lower Valais including Chablais; Leysin; Villars; southern valleys of Visp; southern Simplon region:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m in particular. The fresh and, in places, also the older snowdrift accumulations can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. The snowdrift accumulations should be avoided. Experience in the assesement of the avalanche situation is imperative.

Remaining regions of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. In the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, in Bergell and in Lower Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are found in all aspects, in the remaining regions particularly on west to north to south facing slopes. In the central part of the southern flank of the Alps and in Bergell, new snowdrift accumulations are the major hazard. But also in the remaining regions, the snowdrift accumulations can easily be triggered, even though they are generally small sized. Nonetheless, avalanches can still be triggered in the old snowpack, particularly by larger additional loading, especially in the Lower Engadine. Prudent route selection is recommended.

Due to the rain and particularly during the night below about 2000 m in all aspects, wet snowslides and avalanches are possible.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On both days it will be heavily overcast in northern regions and, primarily on Monday, snowfall is anticipated. The snowfall level will sink down to low altitudes by Tuesday. On the southern flank of the Main Alpine Ridge, only a small amount of snow is expected. Further towards the south it will be predominantly sunny, amid northerly winds. On Monday the avalanche danger will increase in northern 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>

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, 16. March 2008

Danger level

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

