

National avalanche bulletin no. 130

for Monday, 17 March 2008

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Increased avalanche danger due to snowfall

Current conditions

On Saturday night it was predominantly overcast. During the day on Sunday conditions were variable, with intermittent sunshine and a few showers. In the Bernese Oberland, in central Grisons, in the Engadine and the bordering southern valleys, 5 to 10 cm of snow fell, elsewhere 10 to 20 cm widespread. The snowfall level dropped from 2000 m to about 1200 m. The midday temperatures at 2000 m decreased noticeably to minus 2 degrees in northern regions and zero degrees in southern regions. Moderate southwesterly winds prevailed, in western regions they were sometimes strong during the night. The new snow and snowdrift cover over older snowdrift accumulations which, primarily in Lower Valais, still have weak layers in places. Below about 2000 m the snowpack beneath the new snow is often wet.

Short-term development

On Monday it will generally be heavily clouded over. Above approximately 1200 m in western Lower Valais, up to 30 cm of snow is expected, on the northern flank of the Alps about 20 cm. In the remaining Valais, in northern Grisons and in Lower Engadine, about 10 to 20 cm of snow is anticipated, elsewhere less. Moderate westerly to northwesterly winds will prevail. In southern regions the northerly winds will create dry conditions and sunshine, excluding on the Main Alpine Ridge. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will drop to minus 4 degrees in northern regions, minus 1 degree in southern regions.

Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Valais including Chablais; Vaud and Fribourg Alps not including Prealps:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the indicated parts of the Vaud and Fribourg Alps as well as in western and northern Lower Valais, the avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Natural avalanches are possible.

In the remaining Valais Alps, the avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m in particular.

In all regions of this danger level the new and, in places, also the older snowdrift accumulations can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. Experience in the assessment of the avalanche situation is essential.

Remaining regions of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

In the indicated regions of the northern flank of the Alps, the avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. The snowdrift accumulations will increase in size and frequency in the course of the day, so that during the afternoon the danger level 3, Considerable, may be reached.

In Grisons and in Ticino, the avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m in particular.

In all regions of this danger level, cautious route selection is recommended.

Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

In northern regions it will be heavily overcast widespread and a small amount of snow is expected down to low altitudes. In the Valais and in southern regions it will be quite sunny. Moderate to strong northwesterly winds will prevail. The avalanche danger will gradually subside, particularly in the Valais and 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>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

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Feedback information:






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Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 17. March 2008

Danger level

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

