

# National avalanche bulletin no. 131

for Tuesday, 18 March 2008

issue date 17.3.2008, 18:30 hours

## *Widespread considerable avalanche danger*

### Current conditions

On Monday it snowed on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais and the northern parts of Grisons. Since Saturday morning, 20 to 50 cm of snow has fallen above approximately 2000 m north of the Rhone and Rhine, in Lower Valais and in Prättigau to Samnaun. Towards the south, the amounts of fresh snow decreased steadily to about 10 cm. The snowfall level dropped from 2000 m to approximately 1200 m. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 3 degrees in the north and about plus 2 degrees in the south. The westerly wind was moderate, but occasionally strong in the west.

Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on top of older accumulations. The bonding of individual near-surface layers of the snowpack is still poor in some cases. Below approximately 2000 m, the snowpack underneath the fresh snow is moist.

### Short-term development

On Monday night a little more snow will fall in the north. In the east in particular, as much as 10 cm of snow will fall even at low altitudes. In the morning the snowfall will ease here as well and the weather will be mostly cloudy. The west and south will be generally sunny during the day. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will fall to minus 9 degrees in the north and minus 6 degrees in the south.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Regions north of the Rhone and Rhine excluding the western and central Prealps; also Valais; Prättigau; Silvretta; Samnaun:

#### *Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)*

Excepting southern Upper Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2200 m. Natural avalanches are possible.

In central Upper Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on west to north to south facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m.

In all areas subject to this danger level, the fresh snow drift accumulations and, in some places, the older ones as well can be released even by small additional loads. For those engaging in backcountry freeriding activities, experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is very important.

Remaining areas of the Swiss Alps:

#### *Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)*

On the northern flank of the Western and Central Swiss Alps, in southern Urseren, in the other regions of northern and central Grisons and in the rest of Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects. They are above approximately 1800 m in the relevant regions of the Prealps and above approximately 2200 m elsewhere. On the southern flank of the Central and Eastern Swiss Alps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on southwest to north to southeast facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m. The bonding of the fresh snow and relatively small snow drift accumulations with the old snowpack remains poor in some places.

In all areas subject to this danger level, avalanches can be triggered – particularly small ones, but up to medium-sized in isolated cases.

### Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

On each of the next two days it will be generally sunny on the southern flank of the Swiss Alps. In the remaining regions a little snow will fall on both days, and the weather will be changeable with low temperatures. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.

#### 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](http://wap.slf.ch)

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

#### Feedback information:






Email: [lwp@slf.ch](mailto:lwp@slf.ch)

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

# Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 18. March 2008

## Danger level

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

