

## National avalanche bulletin no. 132

for Wednesday, 19 March 2008

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### *Widespread considerable avalanche danger persists in the west and north*

#### Current conditions

On Tuesday a further few centimetres of snow fell on the northern flank of the Central and Eastern Swiss Alps before the cloud broke up. In Valais, on the southern flank of the Swiss Alps and in Upper Engadine, the sun shone all day. Since Saturday morning, 30 to 50 cm of snow, and even as much as 70 cm in some localities, has fallen above approximately 2000 m north of the Rhone and Rhine, in Lower Valais and from Prättigau to Samnaun. Towards the south, the amounts of fresh snow decreased steadily to about 10 cm. Since Saturday the snowfall level has dropped from 2000 m to low altitudes. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 9 degrees in the north and minus 2 degrees in the south. The northerly wind was moderate.

Fresh snow and relatively small snow drift accumulations are lying on top of older accumulations. The bonding between the individual near-surface layers of the snowpack is still poor in some cases.

#### Short-term development

On Tuesday night the skies will be clear. In the north the weather will be changeable and a few centimetres of snow will fall. It will be mostly sunny in Valais and the south. The midday temperature at 2000 m will fall to about minus 9 degrees in all regions. The wind will be light to moderate from the northwest. Under the influence of the radiation, the snowpack is settling and bonding a little despite the low temperatures.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flank of the Alps excluding western and central Prealps; Lower and northern Valais; Prättigau; Silvretta; Samnaun:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 2200 m. In the relevant regions of the northern flank of the Central and Eastern Swiss Alps, and from Prättigau to Samnaun, they are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects. In the other regions subject to this danger level, they are to be found on west to north to south facing aspects in particular. The fresh snow and, in some places, the older snow drift accumulations as well, can be released even by small additional loads or a single snow sport participant. For those engaging in backcountry freeriding activities, experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is essential.

Remaining areas of the Swiss Alps:

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

In the western and central Prealps, in southern Upper Valais, in the other regions of northern Grisons and in central Grisons and the rest of Lower Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep 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 and in Upper Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on southwest to north to southeast facing steep 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 primarily by a large additional load – particularly small avalanches, but up to medium- sized in isolated cases.

#### Trend for Thursday and Good Friday

On Thursday the weather will be sunny on the southern flank of the Swiss Alps. The other regions will be cloudy, and a little snow will fall. On Good Friday snow will fall over a wide area, even at low altitudes. The avalanche danger will decrease temporarily on Thursday before increasing again on Good Friday.

#### 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)

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# Avalanche danger forecast

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