

## National avalanche bulletin no. 137

for Monday, 24 March 2008

issue date 23.3.2008, 18:30 hours

### *Considerable avalanche danger in western and northern regions*

#### Current conditions

On Easter Sunday it was predominantly cloudy, with intermittent snowfall. In western regions, in the Valais and in Ticino there were bright spots. Since Saturday evening on the northern flank of the Alps, in Goms and from the Rheinwald to the Upper Engadine, about 10 cm of snow has fallen; in the remaining Valais, in Ticino and in the remaining Grisons, about 5 cm. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 11 degrees in northern regions and minus 6 degrees in southern regions. Light northerly winds prevailed.

Due to the low temperatures, the large masses of new snow and snowdrift layers from recent days are stabilising slowly, particularly on north facing slopes. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons the snowpack is in general moderately well consolidated on wind-protected slopes above the treeline, especially north facing ones. Avalanches can fracture down to the old snowpack in those areas in particular.

#### Short-term development

On Easter Monday it will initially be bright in eastern regions. Subsequently clouds will move in from the west and it will snow intermittently. In Ticino and the Engadine it will be quite sunny. By Monday evening in the Lower Valais and the western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps, 10 to 20 cm of snow is expected. In the remaining Valais, in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, 5 to 10 cm of snow is expected, elsewhere less. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 11 degrees in northern regions and minus 8 in southern regions. Moderate to strong northwesterly winds will prevail, and will increase in strength in the course of the afternoon.

Due to increasing winds, generally small sized snowdrift accumulations, which will nonetheless be prone to triggering, will form as of midday.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Easter Monday

Regions north of the Rhone-Rhine line; Valais; Gotthard region:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes in particular. North of the Rhone-Rhine line, in Goms and in the Gotthard region the avalanche prone locations are found above approximately 1800 m, in the remaining Valais above approximately 2000 m.

Even single backcountry skiers and freeriders can trigger medium sized avalanches. In the northern regions this is particularly the case for the near- to-the-surface layers of deep new snow and snowdrift accumulations from the latest snowfall. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais, avalanches can also fracture down to the layers of the old snowpack.

Natural avalanches are no longer expected.

Remaining regions of Grisons and Ticino:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m in particular. Isolated fresh snowdrift accumulations, but also older snowdrift accumulations can still be easily triggered in places. These are usually small sized, however. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, isolated medium sized avalanches which fracture down to the layers of the old snowpack can still be triggered by large additional loading.

#### Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On Tuesday it will snow in northern regions. The snowfall will even encroach on the southern flank of the Alps, due to stormy northwesterly winds. On Wednesday it will be overcast in northern regions, in southern regions partly sunny. The avalanche danger will increase slightly again on Tuesday.

##### **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:**

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# Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 24. March 2008

Danger level

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

