

National avalanche bulletin no. 138

for Tuesday, 25 March 2008

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Fresh snow and stormy weather causing widespread considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Easter Monday cloud built up and brought snow from the west during the day. Grisons and Valais had some bright spells until the afternoon, and Ticino was mostly sunny. Since Sunday evening 10 to 20 cm of snow have fallen on the northern flank of the Alps. About 5 cm of snow have fallen in Valais and Grisons. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 13 degrees in the north and minus 7 degrees in the south. The wind was mostly light, but also moderate at times from the west to north.

During the afternoon, fairly small snow drift accumulations formed adjacent to the ridge line. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons, the snowpack is moderately well bonded, especially on north facing slopes above the tree line. Here in particular, avalanches can even penetrate the old snow cover.

Short-term development

On Tuesday snow will fall over a wide area. There will be some bright intervals in Engadine and southern Ticino. By Tuesday evening 15 to 30 cm of snow will fall on the northern flank of the Alps and in western Lower Valais. In the rest of Valais, the Gotthard region, northern Ticino and Grisons, 10 to 20 cm of snow will fall. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 11 degrees. The winds will be strong to very strong from the northwest.

The winds will transport the fresh and old snow. The conditions will give rise to large snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Regions north of the Rhone and Rhine; Valais; main ridge of the Central Swiss Alps; northern and central Grisons; Lower Engadine; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

North of the Rhone and Rhine, in the Chablais, Trient, Champex and Great St Bernhard regions and in the Gotthard region, avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m.

In the rest of Valais, the rest of northern and central Grisons, Lower Engadine and Münstertal, and on the main Alpine ridge from the Lukmanier Pass to Rheinwald, the avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on west to north to south facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m and adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects.

Fresh snow drift accumulations can be released as avalanches even by single winter sport participants. In the affected areas of Grisons, the danger level "considerable" will be reached during the morning. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons, avalanches can also release layers of the old snowpack.

Other parts of both Grisons and Ticino:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to south facing wind-loaded slopes and adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Fresh, mostly small to medium-sized snow drift accumulations can generally be released easily. In Upper Engadine in particular, large additional loads can even release isolated avalanches in deep layers of the snowpack.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

The snowfalls will cease on Wednesday. There will be bright intervals in the west. It will be quite sunny in the south.

Thursday will be changeable with some bright spells everywhere. Between the two days a little snow will fall above approximately 1000 m. The avalanche danger will not change significantly on Wednesday, but it will decrease a little on Thursday.

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 Tuesday, 25. March 2008

Danger level

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

