

# National avalanche bulletin no. 139

for Wednesday, 26 March 2008

issue date 25.3.2008, 18:30 hours

## Treacherous avalanche situation

### Current conditions

From Monday until Tuesday afternoon, 40 to 70 cm of snow fell in the Vaud and Glarus Alps. On the rest of the northern flank of the Alps, 20 to 40 cm of snow fell, but as much as 50 cm fell in some localities. Significantly less precipitation occurred further south; the southern flank of the Swiss Alps remained dry. The westerly to northwesterly wind was moderate to strong, especially during the night and in the morning. It was very strong at times in Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps. Generally it eased a little in the afternoon. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 11 degrees.

In some places, the fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on the still loosely bonded snow from the previous precipitation period. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons, the snowpack is only 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 night, 10 to 20 cm of further snow will fall from the Bernese Oberland to the Alpstein region and in the most northerly parts of Grisons; less than 10 cm will fall in the other regions. The north will remain largely cloudy during the day. There will be sunny spells in the inneralpine regions and in the south. The wind will be moderate from the west. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 7 degrees.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; central part of the main alpine ridge; northern and central Grisons; Lower Engadine and Münstertal:

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

North of the Rhone and Rhine and in the Gotthard region, avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1600 m. Medium-sized slab avalanches can be triggered by a single person. In the Vaud and Glarus Alps, isolated natural avalanches are possible as well. They can be medium-sized and endanger exposed parts of transportation routes. For activities outside marked and open pistes, experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution are required.

In the rest of Valais, on the main Alpine ridge from the Lukmanier Pass to the Rheinwald region, in the rest of northern and central Grisons, in Lower Engadine and Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Snow drift accumulations can be released by a single person. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons, avalanches can also release layers of the old snowpack.

Remaining areas of Ticino; Lower Val Calanca and Lower Val Moesa; Upper Engadine; Bergell; Puschlav:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast 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 still 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 Thursday and Friday

Thursday will be sunny at times, but a little precipitation will occur. On Friday, precipitation is to be expected in the north, but it will remain quite sunny in the south. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.

#### 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 Wednesday, 26. March 2008

Danger level

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

