

National avalanche bulletin no. 141

for Friday, 28 March 2008

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Still considerable avalanche danger widespread

Current conditions

On Thursday it was heavily overcast and it snowed a few centimeters in northern regions in particular. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 5 degrees. Light westerly winds prevailed, on the northern flank of the Alps the winds were intermittently of moderate strength.

The new snow and snowdrift layers of the most recent period of precipitation have settled and consolidated incrementally on south facing slopes and at medium altitudes in particular. At higher altitudes and on north facing slopes, this consolidation is proceeding more slowly. The bonding between individual layers is still poor in places.

In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, the snowpack is only moderately well consolidated, particularly on north facing slopes above the treeline. Beneath the new snow and layers of snowdrift from the most recent period of precipitation there are older, soft snow layers in places. Avalanches can fracture down to these layers, in some places even down to the ground.

Short-term development

On Friday it will be quite sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 4 degrees. Light westerly winds will generally prevail, towards evening they will grow to moderate strength.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps; in addition, Valais; Grisons not including the regions Prättigau, Silvretta, Samnaun, Val Calanca, Misox, Bergell and Puschlav:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2200 m. In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealps, as well as in northern Lower Valais, the avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m in particular. Slab avalanches can be triggered even by single persons and attain medium size.

In the remaining Valais and in the indicated regions of Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m in particular. Older snowdrift accumulations can be triggered by a single backcountry skier or freerider and should be avoided whenever possible. Avalanches which are triggered near to the surface can also fracture and sweep along lower layers of the snowpack.

Prealps; Prättigau; Silvretta; Samnaun; northern and central Ticino; Val Calanca; Misox; Bergell and Puschlav:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

In the Prealps, in Prättigau, in the Silvretta and in Samnaun, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. In northern and central Ticino, in Val Calanca, in Misox, in Bergell and in Puschlav, the avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m in particular. Prudent route selection is essential; especially very steep slopes should be descended singly.

In the course of the day in all regions, particularly on steep east to south to west facing slopes below about 2400 m, natural avalanches are possible. Particularly at medium altitudes in those regions with lots of snow, small wet snowslides can be released on steep, grassy slopes, particularly on steep road embankments.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Friday night in northern regions, a bit of precipitation is expected. During the day on Saturday it will turn increasingly sunny from the west. On Sunday clouds will move in from the west. In southern regions it will be predominantly sunny on Saturday, on Sunday it will turn heavily overcast and some precipitation is expected. The avalanche danger will subside generally, although it will still be subject to a daytime warming cycle.

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)

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

Feedback information:

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Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 28. March 2008

Below about 2400 m wet snow
avalanches in the course of
the day

Danger level

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

