

## National avalanche bulletin no. 148

for Friday, 4 April 2008

issue date 3.4.2008, 18:30 hours

### *Critical avalanche situation widespread*

#### Current conditions

On Thursday it was heavily overcast. Since Wednesday morning in the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland, in the central and eastern parts of the northern flanks of the Alps, in northern and central Grisons and in the Lower Engadine, there has been 30 to 50 cm of new snow. On the northern Alpine Ridge from the Grimsel region to the Glarus Alps, as much as 60 to 90 cm of snow fell; in the Lower Engadine north of the Inn River, there was 50 to 70 cm of snow, elsewhere 10 to 30 cm. In far southern regions, it remained dry. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 5 degrees. Moderate northerly winds prevailed, intermittently the winds were strong.

In the major areas of precipitation, massive and deep snowdrift accumulations have formed which are prone to triggering. Except for in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, the old snowpack is well consolidated widespread. Below about 2000 m, the snowpack is moist.

#### Short-term development

On Thursday night above 1000 m in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and from northern Grisons to the Samnaun, 10 to 20 cm of new snow is expected; in the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland and in central Grisons, 5 to 10 cm. In the morning hours on Friday, the snowfall will taper off in eastern regions as well. Subsequently it will turn quite sunny there, as it already is in the remaining regions. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 5 degrees. Moderate northerly winds will prevail.

In the areas of precipitation, the size and frequency of snowdrift accumulations will still increase somewhat. Through the solar radiation, the snowpack will temporarily forfeit its firmness.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps not including central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri:

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

In the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland, in northern Upper Valais, in the Gotthard region, in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in northern and central Grisons and in the Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Natural avalanches are possible which in isolated cases can attain large size and place exposed sections of transportation routes at risk. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, isolated avalanches can fracture down to the layers of the old snowpack. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, very critical conditions prevail.

In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m in particular. Even single backcountry skiers and freeriders can trigger avalanches. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, extensive experience in assessing avalanche situations is essential.

Central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found in gullies and bowls with fresh snowdrift in all aspects above approximately 2200 m in particular. Prudent route selection is recommended.

Below about 2000 m, wet sluffs and wet avalanches are expected. These sliding snow masses can release from the ground and attain medium size in the major areas of precipitation.

#### Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Saturday it will be generally sunny, with the exception of the cloudbanks in eastern regions. On Sunday it will be variable, with some snowfall expected in northern regions in particular. The avalanche danger will diminish and be subject to a daytime warming curve. For backcountry skiers and freeriders, the avalanche situation in outlying terrain away from secured ski areas remains highly delicate.

##### **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: [lwip@slf.ch](mailto:lwip@slf.ch)






Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

# Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 4. April 2008

Below about 2000 m wet snow  
slides and avalanches in the  
course of the day

Danger level

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

