

National avalanche bulletin no. 152

for Tuesday, 8 April 2008

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Decreasing danger of dry avalanches, increasing danger of wet snow avalanches

Current conditions

From Saturday until Monday morning, 20 to 45 cm of snow fell on the northern flank of the Alps, in the extreme west of Lower Valais and in Grisons. In the other regions, 10 to 20 cm of snow fell. During the morning the weather brightened up from the west. The westerly winds were moderate, but strong at times. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 11 degrees in the north and minus 9 degrees in the south.

The fresh snow was transported during the night and, to some extent, during the day as well. With the onset of radiation, the snowpack settled slowly on sunny slopes in particular, despite the low temperatures. The bonding between the individual near-surface layers of the snowpack improved during the day.

Short-term development

On Monday night the skies will be clear over a wide area. A few centimetres of snow will fall in all regions during the day. The wind direction will change to southwesterly. The wind will be mostly moderate, but strong at high altitudes. The temperature will rise significantly. At midday it will be about minus 1 degree in the north and minus 4 degrees in the south.

More snow will be transported, especially adjacent to the ridge line. The rising temperatures will cause the snowpack to settle quickly. An increasing number of small wet snow slides and avalanches is to be expected.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Northern flank of the Alps excluding the Prealps; extreme west of Lower Valais; Grisons excluding Val Calanca and Val Moesa:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on north to east facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m. Here in particular, avalanches can be released even by a single snow sport participant. The radiation can give rise to small to medium-sized natural avalanches in all aspects. In central Grisons, Engadine and Münstertal, loosely bonded layers exist in the old snowpack in isolated cases as well, so that avalanches released there can penetrate the old snow cover.

Prealps; rest of Valais, northern Ticino as well as Upper Val Calanca and Upper Val Moesa:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast facing wind-loaded slopes. They are located above approximately 1800 m in the Prealps and above approximately 2200 m elsewhere. Fresh snow drift accumulations in particular are prone to triggering, predominantly by large additional loads. Snow sport participants are recommended to observe spacing between individuals. Careful route selection is also recommended.

Central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri; Lower Val Calanca; Lower Val Moesa:

Low avalanche danger (level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep territory in particular.

In all regions, the danger of small wet snow sluffs and avalanches will increase during the day.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

On each of the next two days the weather will be changeable and snow will fall over a wide area even at medium altitudes. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. The danger of wet snow avalanches will increase.

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:

Email: lw@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 8. April 2008

During the day, moist sluffs and wet snow avalanches can be expected below approximately 2400 m.

Danger level

1 LOW

2 MODERATE

3 CONSIDERABLE

4 high

5 very high

