

National avalanche bulletin no. 157

for Sunday, 13 April 2008

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Considerable avalanche danger in southeastern regions

Current conditions

On Saturday there were feeble bright spots in western and northern regions. In Grisons and in Ticino, it snowed lightly. Since Thursday evening there have been the following amounts of new snow above approximately 2500 m: in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, in Bergell, in Upper Engadine and in Puschlav, 50 to 80 cm; in the remaining central part of the Main Alpine Ridge, in the southern parts of central Grisons and in the Münstertal, 30 to 50 cm; in the remaining regions, 10 to 30 cm. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 5 degrees in northern regions and minus 3 degrees in southern regions. Light to moderate northerly winds prevailed.

The humid old snowpack, which has now been covered over with new snow, can freeze only slowly and thus, remains instable.

Short-term development

On Saturday night it will be partly clear. During the day on Sunday it will be sunny to begin with. By evening, it will become increasingly cloudy and a bit of snowfall is expected locally. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 2 degrees. Winds will shift to southwesterly and be of light to moderate strength.

Due to the sunshine and the daytime warming, the uppermost snow layers will become moistened in the course of the day and thereby lose their firmness.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Central part of the Main Alpine Ridge and south thereof; central Grisons; Engadine; southern valleys of Grisons:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, in Avers, in Upper Engadine, in Bergell and in Puschlav, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2400 m. The massive amounts of new snow and snowdrift accumulations can be triggered as avalanches even by single persons. In the remaining regions of the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge and central Grisons, in Lower Engadine and in the Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m in particular. Especially in central Grisons, in Lower Engadine and in the Münstertal, avalanches can fracture even down to lower layers of the snowpack and thus reach large size.

In all regions in the course of the day, loose snow avalanches can be expected on south facing slopes. Due to the massive amounts of new snow, these can attain medium size.

Remaining northern flank of the Alps; remaining Valais; northern Grisons:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on west to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m in particular. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are still prone to triggering in places. They can be triggered primarily by large additional loading. Above 3000 m in the Valais, the danger is higher. Cautious route selection is recommended.

In all regions below about 2400 m, wet avalanches continue to be expected. These can fracture the entire snowpack down to the ground and thus become quite large. On sunny slopes, numerous point release avalanches can be expected up to high altitudes.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday it will be overcast. Particularly in southern regions, snowfall is expected. On Tuesday it will snow again intermittently in northern regions, whereas it will turn increasingly sunny in southern regions. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.

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 Sunday, 13. April 2008

Below about 2400 m wet snow avalanches can be expected in the course of the day.

Danger level

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

