

National avalanche bulletin no. 160

for Wednesday, 16 April 2008

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Treacherous avalanche situation in some regions after snowfall

Current conditions

On Tuesday it was overcast in the north. A frontal system arose on the northern flank of the Alps. In the south it was generally sunny. In the west there were some bright spells in the afternoon. Since Sunday evening, the following amounts of snow have fallen: Gotthard region, Urn Alps, Central Switzerland and Glarus Alps 40 to 60 cm; rest of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, rest of Ticino and northern Grisons 20 to 40 cm; southern Valais, central Grisons, Engadine and Grisons southern valleys 10 to 20 cm. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 5 degrees in the north and minus 3 degrees in the south. The wind was light to moderate from the northwest.

The fresh snow is mostly quite loosely packed. At high altitude it was transported moderately. The bonding with the old snowpack remains unfavourable for the time being in some places, especially where the snow fell on a crust.

Short-term development

The snowfall in the northeast will cease on Wednesday. By Wednesday midday a further 5 to 15 cm of snow will fall on the northern flank of the Central and Eastern Swiss Alps and in northern Grisons. Bright spells will occur in the afternoon. In the west and south it will be rather pleasant at first, but cloud will build up there in the afternoon. Midday temperatures will be about minus 5 degree in the north and minus 3 degrees in the south. The westerly wind will be light to moderate, but also strong at high altitudes. Fresh snow drift accumulations will form at high altitudes in particular.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

High regions of the Bernese Alps from Wildstrubel to Grimsel; Gadmertal; northern flank of the Central and Eastern Swiss Alps; Gotthard region; northern and central Grisons; Engadine; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche danger is greatest in the Gotthard region and the Urn and Glarus Alps. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Those engaging in backcountry touring and off-piste activities must dispose of extensive experience and exercise caution. Isolated, medium-sized natural avalanches are possible.

On the remainder of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2200 m. Careful route selection is important.

In the rest of central Grisons and in Engadine and Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2400 m. Avalanches can penetrate the weakly bonded old snow cover.

Rest of the northern flank of the Western Swiss Alps; rest of Valais, rest of Ticino; Val Calanca; Val Moesa; Bergell and Puschlav:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2200 m. The main danger is posed by the fresh snow drift accumulations. Careful route selection is important. At high altitudes, the avalanche danger is a little greater.

In all regions, in particular below approximately 2400 m, the sun and warming during the day will give to the expectation of loose snow avalanches and wet snow slides.

Trend for Thursday and Friday






In the west and south it will be cloudy and a little snow will fall at times. In the northeast the foehn wind will give rise to bright spells. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. The danger of wet snow avalanches will increase during the day.

Additional information: 'Fax-on-demand' (CHF 1.49/min)	Regional avalanche bulletins (CHF 1.49/min)	Internet: http://www.slf.ch
0900 59 2020 List of fax aids SLF	0900 59 20 31 Central Switzerland	WAP: wap.slf.ch
0900 59 2025 Snow Depths Map (in case of major change)	0900 59 20 32 Lower Valais / VD	Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)
0900 59 2026 New Snow Map daily	0900 59 20 33 Upper Valais	Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)
Weather Information in collaboration with MeteoSwiss	0900 59 20 34 North and Central Grisons	Feedback information:
0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax	0900 59 20 35 South Grisons	Email: lw@slf.ch
(phone: CHF 1.20/min) (fax: CHF 2.--/min)	0900 59 20 36 Bernese Oberland	Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88
	0900 59 20 37 Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps	

Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 16. April 2008

Danger level

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

