

National avalanche bulletin no. 163

for Saturday, 19 April 2008

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Snowfall in southern regions, snowdrift in northern regions

Current conditions

On Friday it was partly sunny in northern regions and generally sunny in the Valais. In southern regions it was heavily overcast. From Thursday afternoon until Friday midday, 15 to 25 cm of snow fell on the southern flank of the Alps, less than had been expected. On the remaining Main Alpine Ridge, there was 5 to 15 cm of snowfall. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were zero to plus 2 degrees in northern regions and minus 1 degree in southern regions. Light to moderate southerly winds prevailed.

Particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines and over 3000 m, generally small sized snowdrift accumulations formed.

Short-term development

On Friday night in southern regions, snowfall will set in once again, then slacken off in the course of the day on Saturday. In southern and western regions it will be predominantly overcast on Saturday. In northern and eastern regions it will be increasingly sunny. By Saturday evening above approximately 2000 m, 20 to 30 cm of new snow is expected on the southern flank of the Alps and 10 to 20 cm on the remaining Main Alpine Ridge. On the northern borders of this region, just a few centimeters of snow is anticipated. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 1 degree. During the night, strong southwesterly winds will prevail, then taper off to moderate strength during the day tomorrow.

The new fallen snow will be transported and trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon region to the Bernina region and south thereof:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

On the southern flank of the Alps not including the Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are found in west to north to east facing gullies and bowls and areas adjacent to ridge lines above 2400 m in particular. Single persons can trigger slab avalanches both in the new snow and in the snowdrift.

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

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to east facing slopes in particular. In the remaining Valais, the avalanche prone locations are found on wind loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m in particular; on the remaining northern flank of the Alps and in the remaining Grisons, they are found on steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations should be avoided whenever possible. In the inneralpine regions of Grisons, avalanches can fracture down to the layers of the old snowpack. In all regions of this danger level, the hazards of avalanches increase at altitudes over 3000 m.

Due to solar radiation and the daytime warming curve, the danger of wet snow avalanches will increase in the course of the day. Below about 2500 m, particularly on steep, sun-flooded slopes, wet snowslides and wet snow avalanches can be expected, which can fracture all the way to the ground in some places.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday it will be predominantly sunny and mild in northern regions. In southern regions it will be generally overcast. On Monday renewed snowfall is expected, primarily in southern regions. In the south the avalanche danger will subside and then increase again on Monday. Particularly on Sunday, caution must be exercised towards the hazards of wet snow avalanches.

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 Saturday, 19. April 2008

Below about 2500 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

