

National avalanche bulletin no. 167

for Wednesday, 23 April 2008

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Further snowfall giving rise to widespread considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Tuesday it became brighter in Ticino during the day, but elsewhere the weather was very cloudy and snow fell above approximately 1400 m. Since Monday afternoon, 40 to 60 cm of snow fell at high altitudes in the eastern Bernese Oberland and on the northern flank of the Central and Eastern Swiss Alps. On the rest of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern and central Grisons, 30 to 40 cm of snow fell; over a wide area elsewhere the amount was 10 to 30 cm. Only a little snow fell in the south. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 1 degree and plus 2 degrees in Ticino. The northwesterly wind was moderate, but occasionally strong in the central and eastern regions.

Large snow drift accumulations have formed in the regions exposed to heavier precipitation. Below approximately 2200 m, the fresh snow is lying on a wet old snowpack.

Short-term development

By Wednesday midday, 20 to 40 cm of snow will fall in the Bernese Oberland and Gotthard region and on the northern flank of the Central and Eastern Swiss Alps. In the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, northern Valais and northern and central Grisons, about 10 cm of snow will fall; less snow will fall elsewhere. The snowfall level will rise from 1300 m to approximately 1700 m. In the afternoon the weather will brighten up in the inneralpine regions in particular. It will be generally sunny in the south. The northwesterly wind will be moderate, but occasionally strong during the night in the east.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps excluding central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects. They are on steep slopes above approximately 1600 m in the Bernese Oberland excluding the Prealps, on the northern flank of the Central and Eastern Swiss Alps and in Prättigau, and above approximately 2000 m in the rest of Grisons and in northern Ticino. At high altitudes, natural dry slab avalanches can occur. They can release the wet old snow and reach large size in isolated cases. In the inneralpine regions of Grisons, failures can also occur within the old snowpack at high altitudes. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases.

In the other regions on the northern flank of the Western Swiss Alps and in Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m.

Central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Careful route selection is recommended, as is the avoidance of fresh snow drift accumulations.

Avalanches sliding on the wet old snow or the ground are expected in all regions below approximately 2200 m. In the regions exposed to heavier precipitation, these can be large avalanches in isolated circumstances and capable of endangering exposed parts of transportation routes. Furthermore, the likelihood of avalanche triggering is elevated in the event of prolonged bright spells, including at high altitudes.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

In the north the weather will be partly sunny on both days, but individual showers will occur on Thursday. It will be generally sunny in the south, and on Friday in Valais as well. The avalanche danger will decrease quickly, but solar radiation will increase the danger during the day.

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)

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Feedback information:

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Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 23. April 2008

Wet snow avalanches and full depth wet snow slides are expected below about 2200 m in all aspects.

Danger level

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

