

## National avalanche bulletin no. 168

for Thursday, 24 April 2008

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### *Considerable danger of dry and wet avalanches widespread*

#### Current conditions

On Wednesday the precipitation slackened off, including on the northern flank of the Alps. In western regions, in the Valais and in the Engadine, the clouds dispersed. In far southern regions it was sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 1 degree in northern regions, plus 4 degrees in far southern regions. Moderate northerly winds prevailed.

Since Monday in the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland and in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, 60 to 90 cm of snow has fallen. On the remaining northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons there was 40 to 60 cm of new snow, further to the south less than 30 cm. At times it rained up to 2200 m. The reported amounts of new snow fell only above that altitude. New snowdrift accumulations have formed which are frequent and massive in the major areas of precipitation. Below about 2200 m the snowpack is often moist down to the ground, or even thoroughly wet.

#### Short-term development

On Thursday it will be partly sunny in western regions, in all other regions it will be variably cloudy. On the northern flank of the Alps above approximately 2000 m, a bit of snowfall is expected. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be plus 1 degree. Light to moderate westerly to northwesterly winds will prevail.

During the night it will be predominantly cloudy, so the snowpack will cool only slightly.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; northern Ticino; northern and central Grisons; Engadine:

##### *Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes above approximately 2200 m. In Chablais, in Trient, in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, in the Bernese Prealps and in the southern Valais not including Obergoms, the avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to east facing slopes in particular; in the remaining regions in all aspects. The snowdrift accumulations are still prone to triggering in places. Below about 2400 m, avalanches can fracture down to the layers of the wet old snowpack, thereby attaining large size. In the inneralpine regions of Grisons, the old snowpack can itself fracture at high altitudes. In all regions of this danger level, even single backcountry skiers and freeriders can trigger avalanches. Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is imperative.

Central Ticino, Sotto Ceneri and southern valleys of Grisons:

##### *Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2200 m.

Cautious route selection, as well as avoiding freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, is recommended.

In all regions, the hazards of wet avalanches will increase to the level "considerable" (Level 3) in all aspects below approximately 2400 m in the course of the day. Moist and wet natural avalanches are expected which may reach medium size.

#### Trend for Friday and Saturday

Particularly in eastern regions it will be partly overcast on Friday. Elsewhere it will be rather sunny on both days. In southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. The danger of dry avalanches will gradually diminish. The danger of wet avalanches will increase each day due to the daytime warming curve.

##### 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)

-- Central Switzerland  
-- Lower Valais / VD  
-- Upper Valais  
-- North and Central Grisons  
-- South Grisons  
-- Bernese Oberland  
-- Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

WAP: [wap.slf.ch](http://wap.slf.ch)

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

##### Feedback information:

Email: [lwp@slf.ch](mailto:lwp@slf.ch)






Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

# Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 24. April 2008

In the course of the day increased danger of wet snow avalanches below about 2400 m on all aspects.

Danger level

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

