

# National avalanche bulletin no. 19

for Sunday, 23 November 2008

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## *Treacherous avalanche situation for backcountry tourers and freeriders*

### Current conditions

Since Friday it has been snowing in the Swiss Alps. Along the northern Alpine Ridge from Wildstrubel to the Alpstein region, in the Gotthard region, in northern and central Grisons and in the Lower Engadine north of the Inn River, 50 to 80 cm of snow has fallen. In the remaining regions there was widespread 30 to 50 cm of snow. In the Simplon region, in central and southern Ticino and in the southern valleys of Grisons, there was only a small amount of snowfall. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 11 degrees. Strong to stormy, and extremely gusty northerly winds prevailed.

Areas adjacent to ridge lines have been intensely blown free of snow; in places large cornices have formed. The distribution of the snow masses is highly irregular. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which are huge in places, tend to be found in zones far removed from the ridge lines.

### Short-term development

On Sunday morning in eastern regions the last snowflakes will fall. From the west and in southern regions, bright skies will begin to appear. By Sunday midday, an additional 5 to 10 cm of snow is expected widespread, in eastern regions 10 to 30 cm of snowfall. Winds will slacken off gradually and a moderate westerly wind will prevail temporarily at midday. Towards evening, the westerly winds will increase in strength as it becomes increasingly overcast. The temperature at 2000 m will be minus 12 degrees.

During Sunday night, the snows will continue to be transported.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

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

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

Along the northern Alpine Ridge from the Gemmi to the Alpstein, in Goms, in the Gotthard region, in northern Grisons, in Lower Engadine north of the Inn River and in central Grisons not including Avers, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. In those regions where precipitation persists until Sunday in particular, natural avalanches continue to be possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be at risk. For backcountry skiers and freeriders, the situation is treacherous.

In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered.

Isolated natural avalanches are possible.

Especially in intermediate altitude areas of those regions with lots of new snow, full depth snowslides can be expected with increasing frequency on very steep grassy slopes.

Central Ticino; lower Calancatal; lower Misox; Bergell; Puschlav; Münstertal:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered and make prudent route selection imperative.

### Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday, particularly in western and in northern regions, more snowfall is expected. In southern regions the skies will brighten during the afternoon. Winds will slacken off. Tuesday is expected to be rather sunny. The temperatures will remain wintry cold. The avalanche danger will gradually subside.

#### National avalanche bulletin as an MMS (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

Send an SMS with the corresponding key word to the speed dial number 162.

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#### Regional avalanche bulletins (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

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

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# Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 23. November 2008

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Danger level

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

