

National avalanche bulletin no. 20

for Monday, 24 November 2008

issue date 23.11.2008, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger widespread, amid snowfall and winds

Current conditions

On Saturday night in northeastern regions, there was as much as 20 cm of additional snowfall. On Sunday it was quite sunny, apart from persistent remaining clouds in places. From Friday morning until Sunday morning 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, there was 50 to 90 cm of new snow, regionally more than 1 meter. In the remaining regions, there was 30 to 50 cm widespread; in the Simplon region, in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri and in the southern valleys of Grisons, only a few centimeters. The temperature at 2000 m at Sunday midday was minus 12 degrees. After having slackened off, moderate westerly winds prevailed. Amid snowfall and winds over the last few days, massive snowdrift accumulations have formed in terrain far removed from ridge lines in particular. The distribution of the snow masses is highly irregular.

Short-term development

On Sunday night, widespread snowfall will again set in. During the day on Monday, snow showers are expected in northern regions. Isolated bright spells are anticipated intermittently. In southern regions it will be increasingly sunny. On the northern flank of the Alps, in Lower Valais, in northern Upper Valais, in Goms and in the Gotthard region, 10 to 20 cm of snowfall is expected, in western regions up to 30 cm. In the remaining regions, there will be maximum 10 cm of new snow. Strong to stormy westerly winds will prevail temporarily Sunday night. In the course of the day on Monday, they will subside to moderate strength. The temperature at 2000 m will be minus 8 degrees.

The westerly winds will continue to transport both old and new snow. The snowpack will consolidate only gradually, due to the low temperatures.

Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

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

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Both freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered.

Particularly the older, large sized snowdrift accumulations are covered over in places, making them difficult to recognize. Backcountry ski and freeriding tours require experience in assessing the avalanche hazards. There is little expectation of natural slab avalanches.

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

Remaining Ticino not including Sotto Ceneri; in addition, the southern valleys of Grisons:

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 and older snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered in places and make cautious route selection imperative.

Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On Tuesday it will turn increasingly sunny in northern regions. In southern regions it will be quite sunny. On Wednesday, sunny weather is anticipated. Temperatures will remain wintry cold, amid moderate bise winds. The avalanche danger will gradually recede.

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

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

LAWINE overview of the keywords
LAWCHD national avalanche bulletin (german)

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Regional avalanche bulletins (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

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-- Upper Valais
-- North and Central Grisons
-- South Grisons
-- Bernese Oberland
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Avalanche danger forecast

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published: 23. 11. 2008, 17:00

Danger level

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

