

National avalanche bulletin no. 22

for Wednesday, 26 November 2008

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Considerable avalanche danger persists in some regions

Current conditions

On Tuesday the weather was very cloudy in the north, where showers gave rise to as much as 10 cm of snow in some localities above approximately 1000 m. In Valais and Ticino there were some sunny spells. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 9 degrees in the north and minus 6 degrees in the south. The wind was light to moderate from the northeast.

In the north, last weekend's fresh snow and snow drift accumulations have largely stabilised. On the main Alpine ridge, the bonding with the underlying snowpack remains unfavourable in some regions. Most of the more recent snow drift accumulations are located adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas; in some cases they are covered by loosely bonded fresh snow.

Short-term development

On Wednesday it will be mostly sunny in the inneralpine regions and in the south. In the north, in the morning in particular, the upper limit of the low stratus-like cloud cover will be approximately 1300 to 1800 m. It will be mostly sunny above the cloud cover. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 8 degrees in the west and south, and minus 10 degrees in the east. The wind will be light to moderate from the northeast.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Main Alpine ridge from Great St Bernhard to the Bernina region, excluding Val Blenio, Upper Val Calanca and Upper Val Moesa; also Schams; Oberhalbstein; Upper Engadine:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on northwest to north to south facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m. Some of the snow drift accumulations that have formed in recent days can be released easily. Especially in the regions in the eastern part of the main Alpine ridge and in Upper Engadine, avalanches can also penetrate the old snowpack. Those engaging in backcountry touring and off-piste activities must dispose of experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Remaining areas of the Swiss Alps excluding Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can still be triggered, especially by large additional loads. More recent snow drift accumulations are to be avoided as far as possible. Careful route selection is recommended.

Especially at intermediate altitudes in the regions with a lot of snow, further full-depth avalanches and snow slides are to be expected on very steep grassy slopes. This danger is indicated by glide-cracks in the snowpack.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday the weather will be sunny above the low stratus. On Friday cloud will build up from the south. Only a little snow will fall in the south. The danger of dry slab avalanches will continue to decrease. Full-depth snow slides are still to be expected.

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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Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 26. November 2008

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Danger level

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

