

## National avalanche bulletin no. 23

for Thursday, 27 November 2008

issue date 26.11.2008, 18:30 hours

### *Moderate avalanche danger, caution towards full depth snowslides*

#### Current conditions

On Wednesday it was predominantly sunny in the Swiss Alps. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 9 degrees in northern regions and minus 6 degrees in southern regions. Light to moderate northeasterly winds prevailed.

The new fallen snow and the snowdrift of last weekend have by and large consolidated in northern regions. More recent snowdrift accumulations are to be found primarily in areas adjacent to ridge lines and in pass areas. On the Main Alpine Ridge and in Grisons, the snow layering is unfavourable in places, due to loosely packed layers of snow near the ground.

#### Short-term development

On Thursday it will be sunny and milder. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 2 degrees in northern regions and minus 4 degrees in southern regions. Light to moderate southerly winds will prevail.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps not including Sotto Ceneri:

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

Along the Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn into the Bernina region, in central Grisons and in Upper Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches in these regions can also fracture down into the old snowpack in places on shady slopes.

On the remaining northern flank of the Alps and in the remaining Valais, in northern Grisons and in Lower Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. In the remaining regions of Ticino and Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on southwest to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m.

In all regions, avalanches can be triggered through large additional loading in particular. More recent snowdrift accumulations should be avoided whenever possible. Prudent route selection is recommended.

The hazards of full depth snowslides have escalated. Particularly in the regions north of the Rhine-Rhone line, as well as in northern and central Grisons and in Lower Engadine, full depth snowslides and sluffs can be expected on very steep, sun-bathed slopes below about 2000 m. These slides can be unleashed naturally at any time of day. Glide cracks, that is, gaps in the snowpack which extend down to the ground, are indicators of this danger. Zones below active glide cracks should be avoided whenever possible, or passed through swiftly.

#### Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Thursday night, cloudbanks will move in from the south. During the day on Friday, it will be predominantly overcast, some snowfall is expected in southern regions. Strong southerly winds will prevail. On Saturday there will be bright skies in places of the northern regions, some additional snowfall is anticipated in southern regions. The avalanche danger will increase somewhat in places.

##### 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)

Weather Information in collaboration with **MeteoSwiss**

0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax  
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##### Regional avalanche bulletins (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

-- 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>

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# Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 27. November 2008

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Danger level

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

