

# National avalanche bulletin no. 153

for Monday, 6 April 2009 issue date 5.4.2009, 18:30 hours

# Favourable backcountry touring conditions in the morning, wet avalanches later in the day

#### **Current conditions**

On Sunday it was variably cloudy in southeastern regions, elsewhere it was predominantly sunny. In the course of the afternoon, convective clouds built up. The midday temperature at 2000 m was plus 3 degrees. A light wind was blowing.

Since the snowpack has become thoroughly wet, fracturing down to the lowermost layers continues to be possible. Wet, loosely packed snow avalanches and slab avalanches can sweep great amounts of snow with them in their path.

# **Short-term development**

Sunday night is expected to remain generally clear. During the day on Monday it will be predominantly sunny. In the central part of the southern flank of the Alps it is expected to be partly overcast during the night and during the following day as well. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be plus 3 degrees. Light southeasterly winds will prevail.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Southern Valais; inneralpine regions of Grisons; Lower Engadine:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep, northwest to north to northeast facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Especially on slopes with shallow snow, at sharp breaks in the terrain and in transitions to gullies and bowls, avalanches can be triggered by large additional loading in particular.

Northern flank of the Alps; northern Valais; Ticino; remaining Grisons:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Avalanche prone locations continue to be evident primarily on slopes with rather shallow snow, where avalanches can still be unleashed in isolated cases through large additional loading in particular.

In all regions, the hazards of wet snow avalanches will escalate over the course of the day possibly as far as danger level 2, "moderate". Below about 2400 m in all expositions, medium sized naturally triggered avalanches can be expected, in very isolated cases even large sized ones. The avalanche activity is expected to be somewhat more limited than in the last few days.

The likelihood of slab avalanches being triggered is expected to increase somewhat over the course of the day. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours should come to a close early in the day.

Full depth snowslides remain an ever present danger. They can be expected at any time of day.

### **Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday**

In northern regions it is expected to be predominantly sunny on Tuesday. In the course of the day, clouds will move in from the west. Favourable backcountry touring conditions will prevail in the morning hours. On Wednesday it will be variably cloudy and a bit of foehn wind influence is anticipated. In western regions there will be a small amount of precipitation. In southern regions it will be generally overcast on both days and on Wednesday a bit of precipitation is anticipated. The effect of the daytime warming cycle on avalanche hazards will subside somewhat. Otherwise, there will be no significant change in the avalanche situation.

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