

National avalanche bulletin no. 39

for Tuesday, 22 December 2009

issue date 21.12.2009, 18:30 hours

Very treacherous avalanche situation sustained by strong winds

Current conditions

On Sunday night, 15 to 35 cm of snow fell on the northern flank of the Alps and in western Lower Valais. Less snow, or none at all, fell in the other regions. During the day it was windy, but no snow fell. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 4 degrees in the north and minus 12 degrees in the south. The wind was moderate to strong from the southwest to south.

The strong winds at high altitude transported a lot of snow. In many cases, the brittle snow drift accumulations are lying on loosely bonded, faceted old snow and can be released very easily. Numerous, generally small avalanches occurred naturally, while others were triggered.

Short-term development

On Monday night, snow will fall in the southern regions in particular. Along the main Alpine ridge and to the south, 10 to 20 cm of snow will fall. Towards the north, smaller amounts of fresh snow are likely. There will be very little precipitation during the day. The wind will be strong to very strong from the southwest. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be about minus 1 degree in the north and minus 6 degrees on the southern flank of the Alps.

The brittle and already large snow drift accumulations and cornices will continue to increase in size on weakly bonded interim layers. The avalanche situation remains treacherous. Further natural avalanches are to be expected.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Swiss Alps excluding central and southern Ticino:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects. On the northern flank of the Alps, snow drift accumulations are treacherous above approximately 1400 m. The avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 1700 m in Lower Valais and northern Valais, and above approximately 2000 m in southern Upper Valais, northern Ticino and Grisons. Fresh snow drift accumulations can be released naturally and triggered easily. The avalanche prone locations are widespread. Avalanches, including medium-sized ones, are to be expected on the northern flank of the Alps and in Lower Valais in particular.

In all the forenamed regions, those engaging in off-piste activities must dispose of a lot of experience and a good knowledge of avalanches.

Central and southern Ticino:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Here as well, the snow drift accumulations are brittle and can be released easily, but they are not yet very large. Small avalanches are likely to give rise to a danger of falling in particular.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

On Tuesday night, up to half a meter of snow will fall in the south, and even more is possible in some localities. Towards the north, considerably smaller amounts of fresh snow are likely. Snow will fall even at low altitudes. The foehn wind will return on Thursday, but the weather will be mostly dry. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly in the north. It will increase in the south, on Wednesday in particular.

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
(phone: CHF 1.20/min) (fax: CHF 2.--/min)

Regional avalanche bulletins (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

LAWZCH Central Switzerland
LAWBVS Lower Valais / VD
LAWOVS Upper Valais
LAWNGR North and Central Grisons
LAWSGR South Grisons
LAWBEO Bernese Oberland
LAWEAN Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

Feedback information:

Email: lwp@slf.ch






Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Avalanche danger forecast

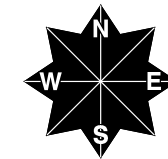
for Tuesday, 22. December 2009

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Danger level

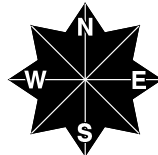
-  1 low
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 CONSIDERABLE**
-  4 high
-  5 very high

lee slopes



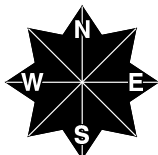
2000m

lee slopes



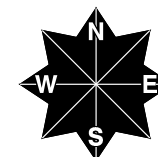
1400m

lee slopes



1700m

steep slopes








2000m

Avalanche danger forecast

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Danger level

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

