

National avalanche bulletin no. 67

for Tuesday, 19 January 2010 issue date 18.1.2010, 18:30 hours

In some regions in the west and on the Simplon Pass, considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

Monday morning was cloudy in the northeast. Thereafter it became sunny, as in the other regions. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 7 degrees in the northeast and about minus 4 degrees elsewhere. The northwesterly wind was strong during the first half of the night, but eased later. In the extreme west, the wind was light.

The wind continued to transport old snow during the night. Sunday's snow drift accumulations are lying on a weakly bonded old snowpack in some cases.

Short-term development

Tuesday will be sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 1 degrees in the west and minus 3 degrees in the other regions. The wind will be light to moderate and change direction from northeasterly to westerly. Sunday's snow drift accumulations are bonding only slowly with the old snowpack on shady slopes.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Northern Alpine ridge from Chablais to Wildstrubel; southern Simplon region:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes. They are to be found in all aspects above approximately 1800 m in the southern Simplon region, and above approximately 2000 m in particular in west to north to south facing aspects elsewhere. In some cases, Sunday's snow drift accumulations can still be released by a single winter sport participant. In the Simplon region, they are more widespread and larger. Experience and careful route selection are required.

Other regions of Valais and rest of the northern flank of the Alps; Ticino, Grisons:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

In the central and eastern parts of the main Alpine ridge and to the south, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The more recent snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering in some cases. These are mostly rather small, but larger in some places on the main Alpine ridge and in the high Alpine regions.

In the other regions of Valais and in the relevant regions on the northern flank of the Alps excluding the Gotthard region, and in northern Surselva and Flims- Untervaz, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to south facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 1800 m. Sunday's snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering in some cases. These must be evaluated with care and prudence.

In the other regions of Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, in gullies and bowls filled with snow drift accumulations in west to north to south facing aspects above approximately 2200 m. The more recent snow-drift accumulations are rather small, but still prone to triggering in some places.

In Valais and Grisons in particular, isolated avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack. Caution is to be exercised at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

During the day on Wednesday, cloud will build up from the west. Snow will begin to fall in the afternoon in the west before spreading to the east during the night. In the south the weather will remain dry. On Thursday it will become increasingly sunny from the west. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly on Wednesday and change only a little on Thursday.

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