

# National avalanche bulletin no. 173

for Wednesday, 5 May 2010

issue date 4.5.2010, 18:30 hours

***Widespread considerable avalanche danger, high avalanche danger in some regions***

## Current conditions

Tuesday was mostly very cloudy. Snow fell in the south in particular. From Monday evening until Tuesday evening, the following amounts of snow fell above approximately 2400 m: 20 to 40 cm from Monte Rosa to the Simplon region and southern Goms and in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps; 10 to 20 cm in the neighbouring regions to the north and on the rest of the main Alpine ridge in Valais, in the eastern Bernese Oberland and the central part of the northern flank of the Alps; the snowfall was lighter elsewhere. Midday temperatures ranged from 0 degrees in the west to plus 3 degrees in the east and south. The wind was moderate from the southeast.

The fresh snow of recent days is lying on mostly moist layers of old snow. The old snowpack is moist all the way through over a wide area on south facing slopes up to 3400 m and on north facing slopes up to 2600 m.

## Short-term development

Snow will fall on Wednesday, predominantly in the south. The following amounts of fresh snow are to be expected above approximately 2500 m: 60 to 80 cm from Monte Rosa to the Simplon region and southern Goms and in western Ticino; 40 to 60 cm in the rest of Upper Valais and the rest of Ticino; 20 to 40 cm in Lower Valais, the Bernese Oberland and the rest of the Gotthard region; and up to 20 cm in Upper Engadine and the Grisons southern valleys. Less snow will fall in the regions further north. The snowfall level will be between 2000 and 2300 m. The wind will be moderate from the southeast.

## Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Upper Saastal; Simplon region; southern Goms; Bedretto and Upper Valle Maggia:

*High avalanche danger (level 4)*

Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2800 m. Natural avalanches are to be expected, some of which may reach great magnitude. They can release the wet old snow in their track and reach altitudes below 2000 m if following familiar paths. Especially if they have a very high water content, the avalanches can have a greater reach than usual. This applies, in particular, in paths where avalanche snow is still lying. Exposed parts of transportation routes at high altitudes can be endangered.

Northern Alpine ridge from Wildstrubel to the Glarus Alps; southern Valais excluding Upper Saastal, Simplon and southern Goms; also southern Urseren; Grisons; central part of the southern flank of the Alps excluding Bedretto and Upper Valle Maggia:

*Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2200 m. Above approximately 2600 m in particular, avalanches can easily be released by people. Natural avalanches are to be expected at all the forenamed altitudes and especially in the regions exposed to heavier precipitation. They can reach medium size and, if following familiar paths, altitudes below 2000 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes at high altitudes can be endangered in isolated cases.

Rest of the northern flank of the Alps; northern Lower Valais:

*Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Below 2500 m, the main danger is posed by some small and isolated medium-sized natural wet snow avalanches. Above approximately 2500 m, avalanches can be triggered by people, in particular in near-surface layers of the snowpack and on north facing slopes.

## Trend for Thursday and Friday

Thursday will be mostly cloudy. Snow will fall at times. The snowfall level will drop to about 1500 m. Friday will be cloudy with bright intervals and isolated showers. The avalanche danger will decrease, in particular in the regions where it is considerable or high.

### 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)

-- 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>

**WAP:** <wap.slf.ch>

**Teletext:** Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

**Feedback information:**

Email: [lwp@slf.ch](mailto:lwp@slf.ch)






Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

# Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 5. May 2010

published: 4. 5. 2010, 17:06

Danger level

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

