

National avalanche bulletin no. 19

for Saturday, 27 November 2010

issue date 26.11.2010, 18:30 hours

Caution urged towards fresh snowdrift

Current conditions

On Friday there was heavy cloud cover accompanied by snowfall in northern regions in particular. By Friday afternoon in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps as well as in the Urner and Glarner Alps, there had been 20 to 30 cm of snowfall, elsewhere along the Prealps 10 to 20 cm. In the remaining regions of the Swiss Alps there was maximum 10 cm of new fallen snow. The northwesterly wind was blowing at moderate velocity widespread, for a short interim also at strong velocity. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 12 degrees in northern regions, minus 8 degrees in southern regions.

Freshly transported snowdrift has been deposited atop soft, as yet little consolidated snow widespread. Loosely packed snow which could still be easily transported is amply evident in the regions north of the Main Alpine Ridge in particular.

Short-term development

The wind will shift to southwesterly on Friday night. During the day on Saturday, it will blow at moderate to strong velocity, in western regions even at storm strength. Following a night of predominantly clear skies, new cloudbanks and some precipitation will move in from the west as of Saturday morning. In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, foehn conditions will persist, accompanied by bright spells. In the western Lower Valais and in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, 5 to 10 cm of snowfall is anticipated by evening, elsewhere less or no precipitation at all. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be approximately minus 9 degrees.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Northern flank of the Alps not including the central and eastern Prealps; Valais; northern and central Ticino; northern and central Grisons; Upper Engadine; Bergell:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found particularly on wind loaded slopes of northwestern to northern to southwestern exposition as well as in areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas in all expositions. In the indicated regions of the northern flank of the Alps, the danger zones are primarily above approximately 1800 m, in the indicated regions of the Valais, Ticino and Grisons, above approximately 2200 m. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. They should be evaluated with great care and, particularly in steep terrain, avoided whenever possible.

Central and eastern Prealps; Sotto Ceneri; Puschlav; Lower Engadine; Münstertal:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. Snowdrift accumulations are generally smallish sized and can be easily triggered by people. With ascending altitude and increasing wind influence, the hazards are expected to escalate somewhat over the course of the day. A prudent route selection is important.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps below about 2200 m, naturally triggered, usually smallish sized full depth snowslides are possible.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday, it is expected to be variably cloudy in northern regions, although in eastern sectors some precipitation is possible during the afternoon. On Saturday night in southern regions, precipitation is expected to set in. During the day on Sunday, a bit of snowfall is anticipated. The wind will slacken off significantly. On Monday, it will be partly sunny in all regions. The avalanche danger will incrementally recede to some extent.

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)

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Regional avalanche bulletins (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

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-- North and Central Grisons
-- South Grisons
-- Bernese Oberland
-- Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps

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Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 27. November 2010

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Danger level

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

