

# National avalanche bulletin no. 120

for Tuesday, 8 March 2011 issue date 7.3.2011, 18:30 hours

## Generally favourable avalanche situation, but treacherous locations in little used terrain

#### **Current conditions**

Monday was sunny and mild in the mountains in the north. In the south it was much colder than on Sunday and the sky was overcast. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about plus 2 degrees in the north and minus 7 degrees in the south. The wind was light from various directions.

On the northern flank of the Alps and in the inneralpine regions in particular, loosely bonded layers of old snow that are prone to triggering exist in the snowpack in some places. In some cases, these weak layers already exist above the tree line. In various regions, small weakly bonded snow drift accumulations are to be found adjacent to the ridge line in particular.

## **Short-term development**

Tuesday will be sunny everywhere in the mountains. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be about minus 2 degrees. The wind will be light, predominantly from the southwest.

In the north in particular, the near-surface layers of the snowpack will become moist again during the day and prone to triggering in some places, predominantly on south facing slopes, because of increasing radiation and the mild temperatures.

# **Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday**

Saastal; Simplon region; Binntal; southern Surselva including the side valleys; Zervreila:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m. In the Saastal, Simplon and Binntal regions, the near-surface layers of the snowpack in particular are prone to triggering. In the indicated regions of Grisons, the entire snowpack is treacherous. In some cases, avalanches can be triggered even by a single person. The avalanches can reach up to medium size. Those engaging in backcountry touring and off-piste activities must dispose of experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais excluding Saastal, Simplon and Binntal; Ticino; Grisons excluding Zervreila, southern Surselva and its side valleys:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes. On the northern flank of the Alps excluding Urseren, the locations requiring special caution are to be found above approximately 1800 m. In Valais excluding the Saastal, Simplon and Binntal regions, and in Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 2200 m. In Urseren, Ticino and the other regions of Grisons, they are to be found above approximately 2000 m. In all the indicated regions subject to this danger level, the older and generally shallow snow drift accumulations in particular must be evaluated with care and prudence. They can be released easily in some places and pick up relatively large quantities of snow. The danger is more prevalent in little used terrain than in the other regions. Careful route selection is important.

In all regions except on the southern flank of the Alps, small wet snow slides and, in isolated cases, avalanches are to be expected on sunny slopes during the day below approximately 2500 m.

#### Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

Wednesday and Thursday will be sunny everywhere in the mountains. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.

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