

## National avalanche bulletin no. 144

for Tuesday, 17 April 2012

issue date 16.4.2012, 18:30 hours

*Widespread considerable avalanche danger – varying danger during the day requires caution*

### Current conditions

Monday was largely overcast. Snow fell from time to time above 1000 to 1400 m. A further 30 to 50 cm fell in Saastal and the Simplon region, and 10 to 20 cm fell in the rest of southern Upper Valais, the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, and Upper Engadine. In most cases, less than 10 cm fell in the other regions. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 3 degrees in the north and plus 2 degrees in the south. The wind was light to moderate from the northeast. The layers of fresh snow and the snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Underneath these layers, weaker layers exist in some places. Here, avalanches can be triggered. In particular in southern Valais and in Grisons, the old snowpack is also faceted and weakly bonded on some north facing slopes with rather shallow snow cover. In the other regions, the deep layers of the snowpack are mostly stable.

### Short-term development

On Monday night the weather will clear slowly from west. During the day it will be quite sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 3 degrees in the north and minus 1 degree in the south. The initially light wind will change direction from northerly to southwesterly and strengthen a little during the day.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps and the Glarus Alps, in each case excluding the Prealps; Gotthard region; northern Valais; Génèpi; main Alpine ridge from Great St Bernhard to the Bernina region; Bivio:

*Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)*

In the relevant regions on the northern flank of the Alps, and in northern Valais and on the main Alpine ridge from the Gotthard region to the Rheinwald region, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on south to north to northeast facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m. The recent days' snow drift accumulations are to be avoided.

In the Génèpi region and on the main Alpine ridge from Great St Bernhard to Binntal and from Avers to the Bernina region, and in the Bivio region, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2200 m. Medium-sized natural avalanches can occur in particular in the regions from Zermatt to the Simplon region where a lot of fresh snow has fallen. They can be released during the night, but especially during the day under the influence of solar radiation and warming. Fractures can occur in deep, weakly bonded layers of the snowpack. Care and caution is required outside marked and open pistes.

Prealps; eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps excluding the Glarus Alps; central Valais; remaining parts of both Ticino and Grisons:

*Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2200 m, and below approximately 2000 m in the Prealps. On north facing slopes in particular, people can trigger avalanches in near-surface layers of the snowpack in some places. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. In addition, in all aspects, the fresh snow drift accumulations of recent days are to be evaluated with care and prudence. The prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations increase with altitude.

In all regions, solar radiation and rising temperatures during the day will increase the likelihood of dry and wet snow avalanches. Numerous natural wet snow slides are to be expected on east, south and west facing steep slopes below approximately 2800 m in particular.

### Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

Each of the next two days will be changeable with showers in the north. In the south it will be very cloudy with some precipitation, especially on Thursday. The avalanche danger is likely to decrease.

**National avalanche bulletin as an MMS** (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

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LAWINE overview of the keywords

LAWCHD national avalanche bulletin (german)

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**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

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# Avalanche danger forecast

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**Wet snow avalanches  
over the course of the day**

