

National avalanche bulletin no. 151

for Tuesday, 24 April 2012

issue date 23.4.2012, 18:30 hours

Fresh snow and wind causing increase in avalanche danger

Current conditions

Monday was sunny at times in the west, but mostly cloudy elsewhere. A little snow fell in the south. The midday temperature was about minus 3 degrees. The wind was light to moderate from the west to south.

The weekend's snow drift accumulations are still prone to triggering in some places. In particular in southern Valais and in Grisons, the old snowpack is faceted and weakly bonded on some north facing slopes with rather shallow snow cover. In these regions, avalanches can be released in the old snowpack. In the other regions, the deep layers of the snowpack are mostly stable.

Short-term development

Tuesday will be very cloudy with bright spells, in particular in the afternoon in Valais and the south. In the extreme west, on the main Alpine ridge from the Furka Pass to Lower Engadine and to the south, and in Upper Engadine, 30 to 40 cm of snow will fall; as much as 50 cm will fall in some localities. 20 to 30 cm of snow will fall on the rest of the northern Alpine ridge, on the main Alpine ridge in Valais, and in the rest of Grisons, and 10 to 20 cm will fall elsewhere. The snowfall level will be 1000 m in the north and 1400 m in the south. The wind direction will change from southerly to westerly. The wind will be strong at times. It will transport the fresh snow and, in some cases, old snow as well.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

In Chablais, Trient and the Vaud Alps, on the main Alpine ridge from the Gotthard region to Lower Engadine and to the south, and in Upper Engadine and the Bivio region, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects. They are to be found above approximately 2000 m in Chablais, Trient and the Vaud Alps, and above approximately 2200 m elsewhere. Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released even by a single winter sport participant; natural triggering is also possible. Avalanches can reach medium size. Those engaging in backcountry touring must dispose of extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger, and exercise caution.

In the Fribourg Alps and on the northern flank of the Alps from the Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein, excluding the Gotthard region, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m. Fresh snow drift accumulations in particular can be released even by a single winter sport participant. They are to be avoided. Experience in the assessment of the avalanche danger is important.

In Lower Valais excluding Trient, Upper Valais excluding Obergoms, the inneralpine regions of central Grisons excluding Bivio, northern Grisons, and Lower Engadine north of the Inn, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. They are to be avoided. In addition, on north facing slopes in particular, avalanches can be released in the old snowpack. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Careful route selection and experience in the assessment of avalanche danger are required.

In particular in the regions with a lot of fresh snow, bright spells during the day are likely to give rise to small wet snow slides and wet avalanches. This applies in particular below approximately 3000 m.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

Each of the next two days will be fairly sunny. In the south, the weather will be partly cloudy and a little snow will fall. The wind will remain strong from the southwest. By Thursday, the zero degree level will rise to above 3000 m. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. The danger of wet snow avalanches will increase significantly during each of the next two days.

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. 0.90/call and min)

Feedback information:

Email: lw@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 24. April 2012

published: 23.4.2012, 17:06

