

# National avalanche bulletin no. 152

for Wednesday, 25 April 2012

issue date 24.4.2012, 18:30 hours

## *Widespread considerable avalanche danger*

### Current conditions

Tuesday was cloudy with bright spells, in particular in the south. Since Monday, 30 to 50 cm of snow fell from the Gotthard region to central Grisons and Upper Engadine, and to the south; as much as 60 cm fell in some localities. 20 to 30 cm of snow fell over a wide area elsewhere. Less than 15 cm of snow fell from the Bernese Alps to central Valais. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 3 degrees. The wind was moderate to strong. It changed direction from southerly during the night to westerly during the day, except in Ticino and Engadine, where the daytime wind was from the north.

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 the other regions, the deep layers of the snowpack are mostly stable.

### Short-term development

On Tuesday night the skies will be clear only in the south. Wednesday will be quite sunny. In the south, the afternoon will be cloudy and a little snow will fall. Midday temperatures will climb to plus 3 degrees in the north and 0 degrees in the south. The westerly to southwesterly wind will be strong at high altitudes and very strong in the high Alpine regions.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern Alpine ridge; Vaud and Fribourg Alps; western Bernese Oberland; the Kandersteg, Lauterbrunnen, Grindelwald and Glarus Prealps regions; Valais; Ticino; Grisons:

#### *Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)*

In the Simplon region, Goms, the Gotthard region, central Grisons, Engadine and on the southern flank of the Alps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2200 m. Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released even by a single winter sport participant. Solar radiation is expected to give rise to natural avalanches during the day. On north facing slopes, avalanches can penetrate the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size in isolated cases. Those engaging in backcountry touring must dispose of extensive experience and exercise caution.

In the relevant regions on the northern flank of the Alps 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 2200 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations 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, Upper Valais excluding both the Simplon region and Goms, and in northern Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2400 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. They are to be avoided. In addition, in particular in southern Valais on north facing slopes, avalanches can be released in the old snowpack. Careful route selection and experience are required.

Prealps east of Thun, excluding the Glarus Prealps; also the Brienzensee region:

#### *Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 1800 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released easily in some cases, but are generally small. They are to be avoided by way of careful route selection.

Solar radiation is expected to give rise to small wet snow slides and avalanches during the day. This applies in particular below approximately 3000 m. In the regions where a lot of fresh snow has fallen, the avalanches can reach medium size.

### Trend for Thursday and Friday

Until Thursday morning, it will be overcast in the south, and some snow will fall above approximately 2000 m. Otherwise, the weather will be quite sunny on each of the next two days. The southwesterly wind will be strong, and very strong in the high Alpine regions. 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.

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# Avalanche danger forecast

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## Wet snow avalanches over the course of the day

