

Persistent danger of wet snow avalanches, slight increase in danger of dry avalanches in the high Alpine regions

Edition: 5.5.2015, 17:00 / Next update: 6.5.2015, 18:00

Avalanche danger

Danger of wet snow avalanches

Locations prone to wet snow avalanches are to be found below approximately 3000 m in particular. The snowpack is being weakened by rain and in some regions by solar radiation. It is unstable. At elevated altitudes further natural wet snow avalanches are to be expected. In particular in Valais and in Grisons, but to some extent on the northern flank of the Alps as well, these avalanches can release the entire snowpack and, in isolated cases, reach a large size. This applies in particular to west to north to east facing steep slopes between approximately 2500 and 3000 m. Here, wet snow avalanches can also be triggered by people in some cases.

Danger of dry avalanches

Locations prone to dry avalanches are to be found above approximately 3000 m in particular. Relatively recent snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering in some cases and are to be assessed carefully.

Snow and weather

Snowpack

Below approximately 3000 m the snowpack is wet over a wide area. It has been weakened on west to north to east facing slopes in particular. In recent days wet snow avalanches have been released on north facing slopes above 2500 m in the north, in Valais and to an increasing extent in Grisons as well. In the high Alpine regions in particular, relatively recent snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering in some cases.

The snow line on north facing slopes is approximately 1700 m, but 2000 m in Valais. On south facing slopes it is between 2000 and 2500 m. The quantity of snow lying on flat terrain at 2500 m is mostly 100 to 200 cm, but as much as 300 cm is to be found in the Simplon and Gotthard regions and in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps.

Weather review

Monday night was overcast. Showers brought a little precipitation to northern Ticino. During the day the foehn wind gave rise to bright spells in the north. The east was partly sunny. In the west and south it was cloudy. A little precipitation fell in western Lower Valais and in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps. The snow line was approximately 3000 m in the west and approximately 2500 m in the south. From Monday evening until Tuesday evening, 5 to 10 cm of snow fell in the high Alpine regions of both Lower Valais and Ticino.

The southerly wind was moderate to strong.

Weather outlook

Tuesday night will be cloudy and precipitation will fall over a wide area. During the day the north and east will be cloudy with some precipitation. The west and south will be increasingly sunny as the day progresses. During the day the snowfall level will drop to approximately 2200 m. From Tuesday evening to Wednesday evening, 5 to 15 cm of snow will fall above 3000 m over a wide area; in the south up to 30 cm will fall in some localities.

The wind will be light to moderate, but strong in the high Alpine regions, from the southwest to west.

Outlook

On Thursday it will become increasingly sunny in the northeast. Elsewhere it will be quite sunny. Convective cloud will build up during the day. Friday will be sunny at first but then become increasingly cloudy with showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. The zero degree level will be approximately 2600 m to 3000 m. In the high Alpine regions in particular, the more recent snow drift accumulations are to be assessed carefully. The danger of wet snow avalanches will increase during each of the next two days.

Current avalanche bulletin

Internet www.slf.ch
App White Risk
(iPhone, Android)

Feedback to avalanche warners

(Avalanche released? Bulletin inaccurate?)
Questionnaire www.slf.ch
E-Mail lwp@slf.ch
Toll-free phone number 0800 800 187

Additional specialized federal departments

MeteoSwiss (weather) / www.meteoswiss.ch –
Alpine weather report: tel. 0900 162 138 (CHF 1.20/min., in German)
FOEN (flood, forest fire) / www.bafu.admin.ch
SED (Earthquakes) / www.seismo.ethz.ch



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Avalanche bulletin through Wednesday, 6 May 2015

5.5.2015, 17:24

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You can also be sent a notice that an avalanche bulletin has been published via RSS Feed.

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