

## Quite favourable avalanche situation each morning

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### Avalanche danger

In the early morning hours of each day, the avalanche situation is quite favourable. In isolated cases, dry-snow avalanches can be triggered from the new layers of fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrifts of this week. This is particularly the case on very steep north-facing slopes in high alpine regions. On the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland as far as Liechtenstein, small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized avalanches are possible. In the other regions of Switzerland, the avalanches will generally be small-sized. In those regions, apart from the dangers of being buried in snow masses, the perils of being swept along and forced to take a fall need to be taken into consideration above all else. On Sunday in southern regions, small snowdrift accumulations are expected to be generated in high alpine zones. In extremely steep terrain these drifted masses should be circumvented.

In all regions of Switzerland, the danger of wet-snow avalanches will increase somewhat during the course of each day. This also applies to north-facing slopes at high altitudes. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours should be brought to a close early in the day.

### Snow and weather

#### Snowpack

On sunny slopes the fresh snow of this week has already consolidated to a large extent. Dry-snow avalanches can still be triggered on very steep north-facing slopes in high alpine regions more than anywhere else. In particular, fractures inside the fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts or in transition zones to the old snowpack are possible. The old snowpack itself is stable over widespread areas. The snow cover on north-facing slopes is thoroughly wet up to nearly 3000 m, on south-facing slopes as far up as high alpine regions.

The snow line on north-facing slopes of the northern flank of the Alps lay at 1600 to 1800 m; in the other regions of Switzerland the snow line was at 2000 m over widespread areas. On south-facing slopes the snow line was approximately 500 m higher up.

#### Weather review to Thursday, 17 May

On Thursday in western and in southern regions, it was quite sunny, accompanied by convective clouds and isolated showers during the afternoon. In northeastern regions skies were heavily overcast and there was a small amount of precipitation, which fell as snow above approximately 2200 m. On Wednesday morning it was predominantly sunny in the Swiss Alps. During the course of the day, convective clouds built up and in isolated cases there were showers registered. Winds during the night on Thursday were blowing at moderate strength in some regions, from northeasterly directions. In the other regions, winds were mostly light.

#### Weather outlook through Pentecost Sunday, 20 May

Nighttime skies will be predominantly clear, the longwave outgoing radiation of the moist air masses will be somewhat reduced, however. On Saturday as well as on Pentecost Sunday, it will be rather sunny in the early morning. During the course of the day, convective cloud build-up is anticipated and some showers and thunderstorms are expected during the latter part of the day. On the southern flank of the Alps and in the Valais part of the Main Alpine Ridge, skies will be only partly clear on Friday night; subsequently predominantly overcast accompanied by a small amount of precipitation on Saturday night and during the day on Pentecost Sunday. The snowfall level will be at approximately 2500 m. Winds will be light to begin with, subsequently be blowing at moderate strength on Pentecost Sunday, from southerly directions.

## Outlook

On Whit Monday in southern regions and in the Upper Valais part of the Main Alpine Ridge, skies will be predominantly overcast and a small amount of precipitation is anticipated. The amounts of precipitation to be expected are still uncertain. In high alpine regions, the danger of dry-snow avalanches will increase. As a result of the rainfall, moist-snow slides will be possible on north-facing slopes below approximately 2800 m more than anywhere else.

In the remaining regions of Switzerland, it will be sunny to start with, following nights of predominantly clear skies. During the course of the day, convective cloud build-up is expected, subsequently some showers or thunderstorms will follow. The avalanche prone locations for dry-snow avalanches are found especially on extremely steep north-facing slopes in high alpine regions. During the course of the day, the danger of wet-snow avalanches is expected to increase somewhat. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain should be brought to a close early in the day.

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