

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday 3/20/2018

AVALANCHE DANGER

new windslabs mainly along the northern bordering ridges

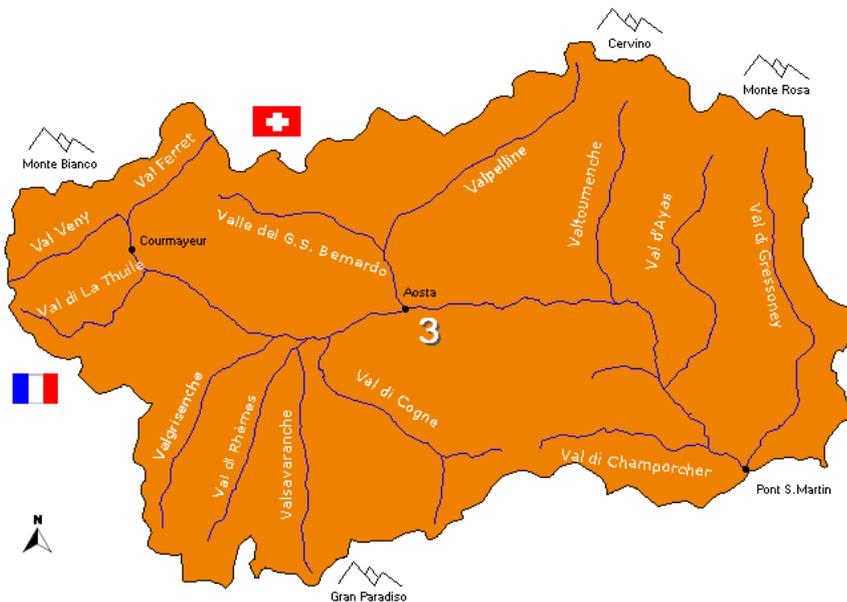
The avalanche danger level is **3-considerable** all over the region. The main avalanche problem is the **wind-drifted snow**.

Triggered avalanches:

- new windloads at the S aspects, above the treeline, more widespread along the ridges bordering with Switzerland where the wind activity is greater. they could be medium sized, often soft and triggerable with a single skier passage, mainly close to ridges, passes and slope changes.
- older wind slabs, small/medium sized (30-50 cm thick). They are widespread mainly close to Piedmont and France and they decrease in diffusion moving north-east. They are located above 2300-2600 m, at all aspects, on the very steep slopes, close to ridges, passes and on slope changes. Covered by the weak snowfalls of the weekend, these wind slabs are no longer easily recognizable and they can be triggered at the passage of an individual skier and, locally, even by a remote overload.

Natural release avalanche activity: decreasing

Sluffs and small/medium sized surface slabs can still release from rock bars and on very steep open slopes, especially below 2800-3000 m, during sunny spells and in the sunniest areas. Below 2500 m few glide-snow avalanches from the very steep grassy/rocky slopes are possible.



AVALANCHE DANGER TREND

Wednesday 21:



Thursday 22:



The danger level remains constant due to the weak to moderate wind activity

EUROPEAN AVALANCHE DANGER SCALE

↑ Rising avalanche danger during the day



New snow and weather

During the weekend, above 2000 m 15-25 cm of new snow, higher amounts (30-40 cm) in the Lys valley and close to Piedmont and generally at higher elevations (>3000 m). The new snow is moistening during the hottest hours of the day below 2300-2700 m depending on the areas and aspects. But the sharp drop in temperature forecast in the next day will dry again the snow

The winds still in action have poorly moved the snowpack, eroding a few inches of snow. From Monday evening the northern winds will act more on the great amount of loose snow, especially along the border reliefs with Switzerland, where the winds will have greater intensity.

Surveyed avalanche activity in the last 48 h

Several natural release avalanches of loose dry snow on the shady slopes between 2200 and 2800 m and small and medium-sized slabs mainly at sunny aspects have been reported. A medium-sized full-depth avalanche from a very steep grassy slope occurred below 2500 m.

Triggered releases: a remote distance triggered avalanche, of medium size, northern aspect, at 2900 m. Still some whooms reported.

Snowpack stability

The new snow of the weekend has a good bond with the old snowpack which, although still presenting some critical issues (overlapping slabs), is slowly consolidating according to the weight of the new snow and the gradual humidification, especially where ventilation is scarce.

Below 2200 m, the basal layers of the snowpack, close to the ground, are often damp/wet (typically spring crystals).

Snow cover:

- from absent to discrete up to 1500 m;
- excellent from 1900 m to 2800 m;
- good above 2800 m, but less homogeneous, with partly eroded ridges, north walls exposed to ice and bumps and filled gullies.

In the lateral valleys you can put on your skis right from the bottom of the valley.

Skiing conditions

Generally powdery snow, nice to ski above 2100-2300 m mostly on the northern slopes, in humidification below 2300-2500 m depending on the areas. In high mountains, different areas with snow drifted by the wind. The recent snow on the south slopes lays on a melt and freeze crust up to 2500 m.

TYPICAL AVALANCHE PROBLEMS



NEW SNOW



WIND-DRIFTED SNOW



PERSISTENT WEAK LAYERS



WET SNOW



GLIDING SNOW

CRITICAL LOCATIONS



IN BLACK: THE MORE CRITICAL ASPECTS AND ELEVATIONS

Snow and avalanche bulletin n° 109 issued on 3/19/2018 at 04.15 p.m.
Valid outside the ski runs controlled and managed by the ski resorts.

For an accurate interpretation of the Bulletin, a specific guide is available at
www.aineva.it/guida-bollettini/

