

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday 1/10/2019

AVALANCHE DANGER

Along the NW boundaries new small windloads
sometimes laying on smooth unfavorable surfaces

The danger is **2-moderate** on the north-western borders of the region, **1-low** elsewhere.

The main avalanche problem, even if limited, is the **wind-drifted snow**.

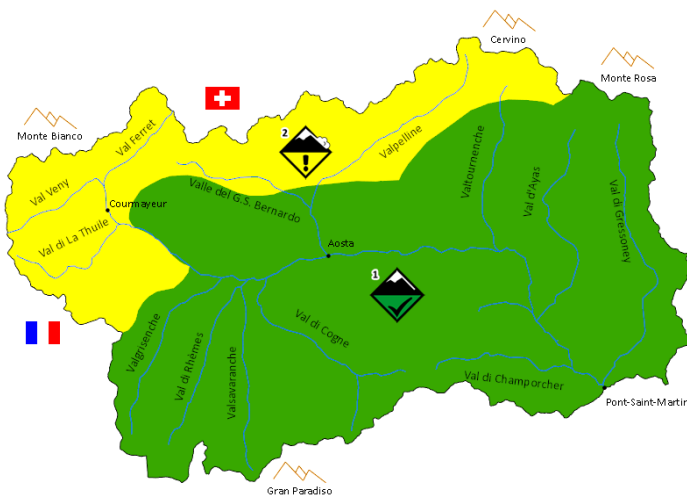
Artificial triggered avalanches

On Wednesday the weak perturbation from north passed through our region has been accompanied by strong northern winds whose effect has been mainly to blow the snow away: the **new** formed **windloads** are **small, thick 20-25 cm, not widespread and located in areas strictly bordering with France and Switzerland** (in particular in the areas of La Thuile and Gran San Bernardo), above 2000-2500 m at different aspects. Therefore, on very steep slopes, the passage of a skier can result in the release of slabs generally small sized, especially when they lay on old smooth and hard surfaces.

On the rest of the territory there are **old** hard and thick **accumulations**: the main danger is to slip above them because they are extremely smooth.

Natural avalanches:

above 2000-2500 m, especially in the north and west sectors of the region, loose snow sluffs from the extreme slopes and small slab avalanches from the very steep leeward slopes are possible.



> 2000-2500 m

AVALANCHE DANGER TREND

Friday 11:



Saturday 12:



Steady.

EUROPEAN AVALANCHE DANGER SCALE

↑ Rising avalanche danger during the day



5 VERY HIGH



4 HIGH



3 CONSIDERABLE



2 MODERATE



1 LOW

Fresh snow and weather h 12.00

On Wednesday morning, the perturbation from north passed through our Region has generally brought a few cm of snow above 1500 m, the only significant peaks were in the areas of La Thuile and Gran San Bernardo, where in zones strictly bordering with France and Switzerland 15-20 cm of new snow were recorded above 2000 m. The same amounts of cm could be recorded on Wednesday afternoon/evening in the same areas, but in a very localized and irregular pattern. The weak snowfall was accompanied by strong northern winds.

Snowpack

Surface wind or melt and freeze crusts or, rarely, facets on the colder slopes and in sheltered plateau.

In the older part of the snowpack, where present, the weak layers are made by facets. It is unlikely to break them because they are often buried deep inside the snowpack and in any case the overlying crusts are very hard and thick. Locally the wind erosion may have brought facets closer to the surface.

Snow cover

Snow is absent in the bottom valley and poor in the middle mountain.

Good snowcover above 2200-2400 m, but the snowpack has been heavily worked by the wind, with eroded areas where they are most exposed to the wind.

Natural avalanches in the last 24 hours

No one.

Skiing conditions: bad to good, frequently variable in few meters.

It is possible to wear the skis above 1800-2300 m, better to choose skitours with roads that lead at higher altitude.

Above 2400 m we ski on very hard wind crusts, often funny, while at lower altitudes there are refrozen crusts, hard and irregular, less funny and more difficult to ski.

There are many sastrugi, mainly at high altitude.

Useful crampons or rampant for the hardest areas.

TYPICAL AVALANCHE PROBLEMS



NEW SNOW



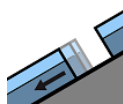
WIND-DRIFTED SNOW



PERSISTENT WEAK LAYERS



WET SNOW



GLIDING SNOW

CRITICAL LOCATIONS



IN BLACK: THE MORE CRITICAL ASPECTS AND ELEVATIONS