Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta
Assessorato opere pubbliche, difesa del suolo e edilizia residenziale pubblica
Dipartimento difesa del suolo e risorse idriche
Assetto idrogeologico dei bacini montani
Ufficio neve e valanghe

Région Autonome Vallée d'Aoste
Assessorat des ouvrages publics, de la protection des sols et du logement public
Département de la protection des sols et des ressources hydriques
Aménagement hydrogéologique des bassins versants
Bureau neige et avalanches

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday 1/24/2017

AVALANCHE DANGER **Persistent weak layers on E, N and W slopes.**

The avalanche danger level is **2-moderate** on the whole Region and the typical avalanche problem there are **persistent weak layer and wind-drifted snow**.

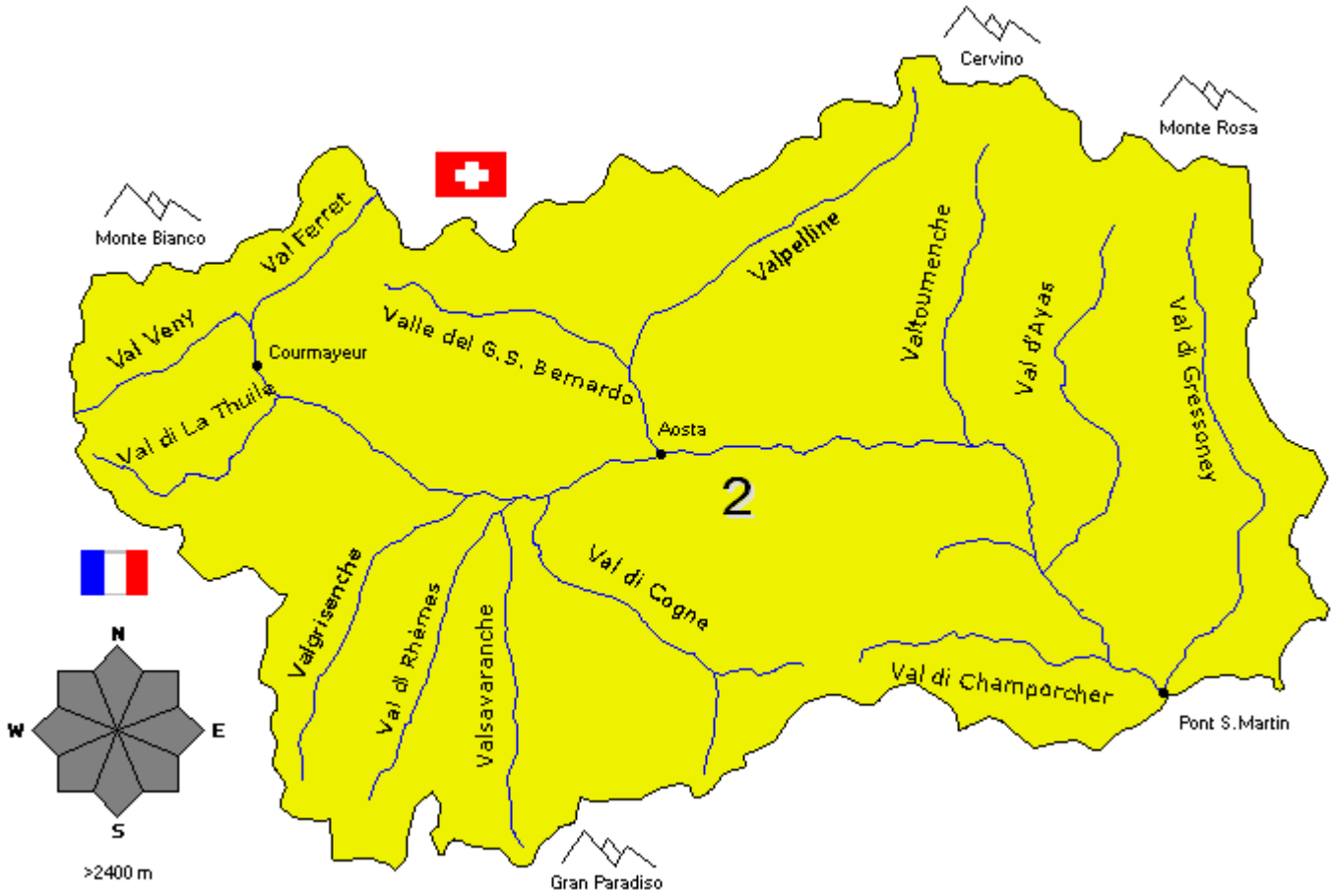
Triggering:

at the passage of many skiers can cause triggering of some hard wind slab, build with the wind of last week (mainly on the the border ridge with France and Switzerland), not always easily visible, on the slopes E and SE, above to 2300-2500 m. These slabs are hard to break, but you must pay attention to the transition between hard and softer snow.

On the western and northern slopes, above 2200 m, the presence of basal layers and weak internal cohesion (like coarse salt), now also of considerable thickness, can facilitate the triggering of slabs, even of medium size under the ridges, at the entrance the channels, on the elevation changes but also on steep slopes, so please be careful to passage on the steep slopes.

As you travel in the eastern sector of the region, the critical issues and the danger avalanches decreases and becomes the greatest danger to slip or be dragged, in case of a small avalanche in the eroded and rocky areas.

Avalanche danger trend: stationary.



Tuesday 01/24/2017

KEY	Critical slopes altitude and aspects	Rising avalanche danger during the day
Hazard scale	5 VERY HIGH	4 HIGH	3 CONSIDERABLE	2 MODERATE	1 LOW

Snow and avalanche bulletin n° 61 issued on 1/23/2017 at 04.00 p.m.

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GENERAL CONDITION
updated at 1/23/2017

Mainly the snow does not have particular tensions but is still in phase of slow consolidation and has a complicated structure and a strong lateral variability. The surface is very irregular: loose snow nice skiing (located mainly in the treeline and in the hollows sheltered) often covered by surface hoar even on steep slopes, which at higher altitudes, is gradually replaced by snow loose type coarse salt, which easy to collapse, snow damaged by the wind, in this case loads fairly hard and compacted (aspects predominant SE), to wind crusts more or less breakable or sastrugi; moreover bumps and ridges are characterized by large areas eroded to the ground.
The snow cover is continuous from the valleyfloors, but below 2200-2500 m there's not a good basal layer (south aspects and below the tree line often just not present at all!) and then you can easily touch the underlying substrate.
Because of the low temperatures the snow is undergoing a strong faceting: towards facets in the surface layers (with a consequent reduction of the hardness of the wind refreeze crusts and reduction of internal stresses), towards depth hoar in the basal layers.

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