

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday 1/28/2021

AVALANCHE DANGER

Snowfall (strong in the NW) + strong winds + rising temperatures + presence of persistent weak layers

Critical and unusual avalanche situation because several negative conditions overlap:

- **fresh snow:** heavy snow fall on the border ridges; the fresh snow did not bond well with the old below;
- **drifted snow:** strong and very strong winds from the NW increase the loads and overload the slopes;
- **persistent weak layers:** present at the base of the snowpack. By overloading them, they collapse with bottom avalanches;
- **wet snow:** rain, even up to 1800 m, quickly destabilizes recent dry snow.

Natural avalanches:

many natural avalanches both with loose cohesion and slabs, both surface and ground. In the west and north of the region, particularly in the Mont Blanc area, they can be very thick and very large and can reach the valley floor, both with a dense component and with aerosols.

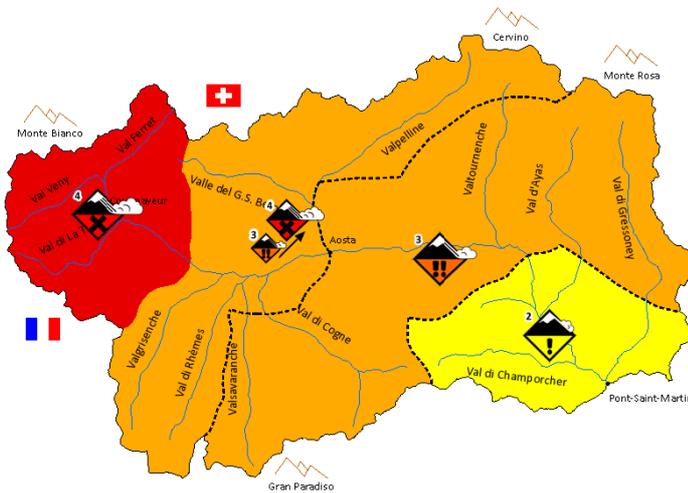
Probable small avalanches of wet snow from the slopes near the streets, that can invade the roadway.

In the south-east the danger is more limited due to the little snow present and therefore the avalanches will be smaller and less thick.

Avalanches triggered:

especially in the north-west, it is easy to cause the triggering of slabs already when a skier / hiker passes. The slabs can be both superficial and bottom. The danger is already present from 1700 m. **Much experience is required in local hazard assessment and a prudent and defensive attitude is recommended.**

Differences between the north-west and south-east of the region: in the south-east there is little fresh and recent snow and therefore it is easier to collapse the weak layers present in depth; in the north-west the main instability is superficial and linked to the loads of fresh and wind snow.



> 2000 m



> 2000 m

AVALANCHE DANGER TREND

Friday 29:



Saturday 30:



increasing degree of danger. The snowfalls continue, especially in the north-west, with very strong winds.

EUROPEAN AVALANCHE DANGER SCALE

 5 VERY HIGH

 4 HIGH

 3 CONSIDERABLE

 Rising avalanche danger during the day

 2 MODERATE

 1 LOW

Fresh snow

Fresh snow in the north ridge Wednesday morning 25-30 cm, but irregular due to the strong wind; little or nothing in the southeast. In the mid-mountains in the west of the region there are much quantities of fresh and recent snow that can be moved by the wind.

Snow cover and snowpack

The snow cover is fair, in mid-mountain there is still little, especially in the center of the valley and in the areas of Gran Paradiso. Uneven snow cover above 2400 m, with eroded bumps down to the ground and snow-filled channels. Unfavorable snowpack conditions: at all aspects, above 2000 m, persistent weak layers are widespread.

Avalanches observed last 48h

Intense avalanche activity with both spontaneous and triggered slab releases at all aspects, but mainly at the east and north aspects.

Skiability

Still little depth in the center of the valley and in the south of the region, especially below 2000-2200 m, with ridges and bumps eroded down to the ground. Beautiful snow in mid-mountain, between 1800 and 2400 m; more drifted snow going up in altitude.

TYPICAL AVALANCHE PROBLEMS



NEW SNOW



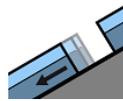
WIND-DRIFTED SNOW



PERSISTENT WEAK LAYERS



WET SNOW



GLIDING SNOW

CRITICAL LOCATIONS



IN BLACK: THE MORE CRITICAL ASPECTS AND ELEVATIONS