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Snow forecast - Friday 9 November 2012

The weather will deteriorate in the **Alps** this weekend, but it will never be particularly cold and any significant snow will be confined to relatively high altitudes. Looking further ahead, things will settle down again next week with freezing levels soaring back towards 3000m. Sadly there is no sign of another serious wintery blast for some time to come.

Meanwhile, in North America, a major winter storm is about to deliver some serious snowfall to the western US. The heaviest snow is predicted to fall in Montana and Utah (Snowbird, Alta) where up to 60cm is possible. 20-50cm is also likely across many Californian and Colorado resorts over the next few days.

Detailed forecast:

Austria

The rest of today and tonight should remain dry. Saturday will start dry in many places, but cloud will thicken up to bring a few showers across western parts later (snow above 2400m). Sunday will see more widespread precipitation with some snow above 1600m.

France

Cloud will thicken up across the French Alps this afternoon with rain spreading from the south-west overnight (snow above 2600m). Saturday will be mostly cloudy with further rain at times, heaviest and most persistent in the Alpine foothills, more showery in the Alpine interior (such as Val d'Isère). The rain/snow limit will start around 2500m, lowering to 2000m or so later. It will turn colder on **Sunday** with further showers falling as snow to 1500m.

Italy

Rain will spread into the western Italian Alps overnight with snow to 2000m in the Aosta Valley (higher further south). It will remain mostly dry further east in the Dolomites. Saturday will see showers or longer spells of rain continue in the west (some snow above 1800m in the Aosta region, higher again further south). The Dolomites may start dry but showers will move in later with a little snow above 2400m. Sunday will remain cloudy with further showers in most regions and a little more snow at altitude.

Switzerland

Most places will remain dry today, but rain (snow above 2500m) will reach the southern borders with Italy as well as the far western Swiss Alps overnight. Saturday may start dry in some central and eastern parts of Switzerland still protected by the Foehn (such as **Klosters**). Elsewhere, showers or longer spells of rain are expected, with snow above 2400m then 2000m later. It will turn colder on **Sunday** with further showers, heaviest in the east with snow falling to 1500m or lower.

Outlook:

Showers may persist across some southern and eastern regions on Monday otherwise much of next week is looking fine and quiet with plenty of sunshine and mild temperatures.

Next detailed forecast on Friday 16 November, but see Today in the Alps for daily updates