A critical avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

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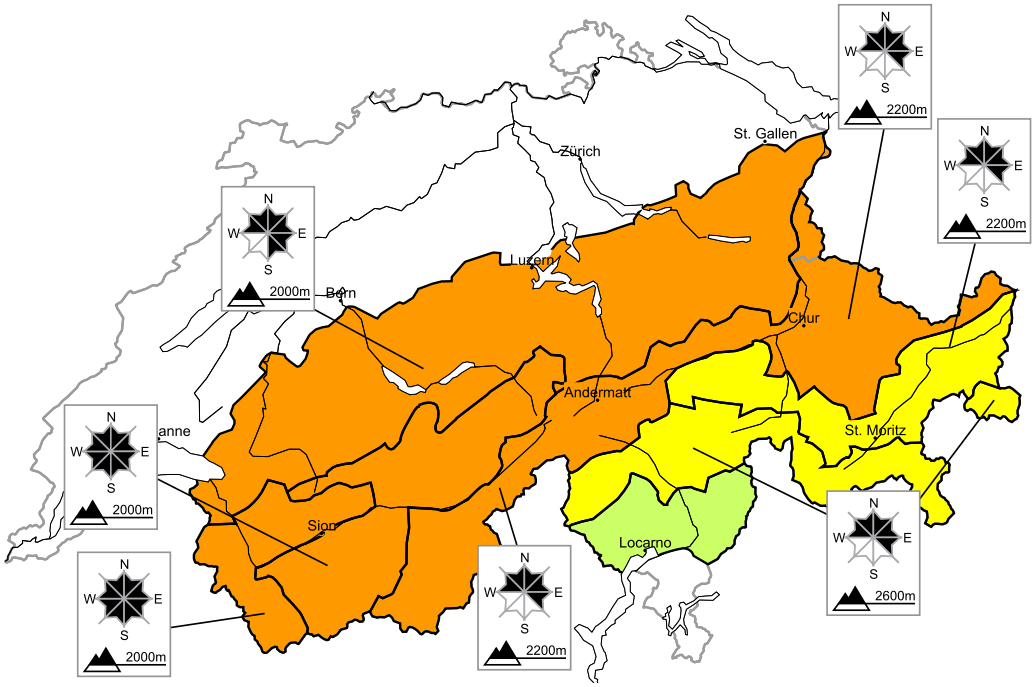
Avalanche danger

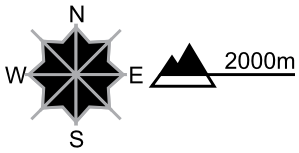
updated on 10.1.2016, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind the snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate down to the ground and reach dangerously large size. Natural avalanches are possible as before. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.
The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes remain critical. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Wet avalanches

Individual moist snow slides and avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 consider. 4 high 5 very high

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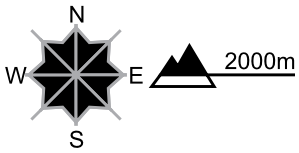
region B — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



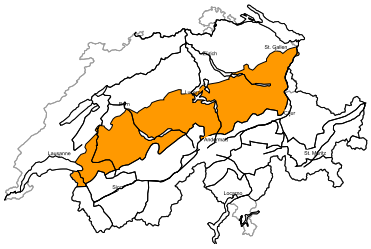
Danger description

The more recent snow drift accumulations are in many cases large and can in some cases be released easily. Avalanches can penetrate down to the ground and reach dangerously large size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Remote triggering is possible.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for great caution and restraint.

Wet avalanches

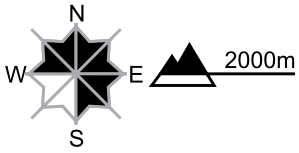
Individual moist snow slides and avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

region C — Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



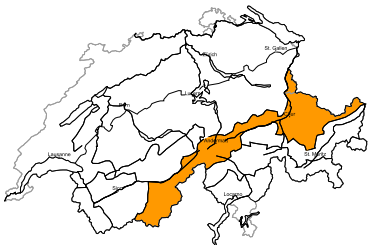
Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly easy to recognise but prone to triggering. The fresh and older snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes above approximately 2200 m. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

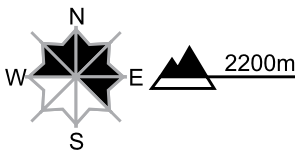
Individual moist snow slides and avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

region D — Level 3, considerable



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Over a wide area snow drift accumulations are lying on old snow containing large grains. Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow, even by a single winter sport participant. Remote triggering is possible. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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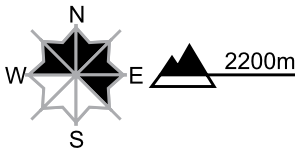
region E — Level 2, moderate

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



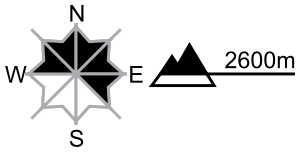
Danger description

Snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Avalanches can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep north facing slopes as well as in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

region F — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

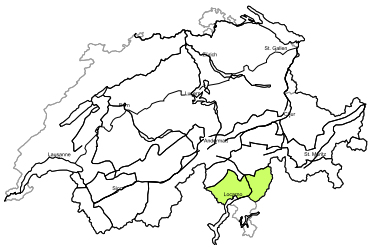
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Only a little snow is lying. Fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in extreme terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region G — Level 1, low



Favourable situation

Hardly any snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 9.1.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

Superficial snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering have been deposited on the snow cover surface over widespread areas during the last few days. In western and northern regions, these drifted masses are larger than in southeastern regions.
Both the new fallen and newly drifted snow from the week of the New Year were deposited atop a heavily faceted and loosely-packed snow cover surface, in some places atop a snowpack blanketed with surface hoar, over widespread areas on shady slopes in wind-protected zones at high altitudes and in high alpine regions. For that reason, these freshly deposited layers are bonded extremely inadequately with the old snowpack beneath them. Avalanches can fracture at this embedded junction of layers and, particularly in western regions, reach dangerously large size.

Observed weather on Saturday, 9.1.2016

Skies were overcast and there was snowfall in western and northern regions. The snowfall level was between 2200 m in western regions and 1600 m in eastern regions, and dropped lower only very gradually during the course of the day.

Fresh snow
Between Friday evening and Saturday evening above approximately 2200m, the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:
· furthermost western part of Lower Valais, northern Valais: 20 to 35 cm
· remaining parts of Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps: 10 to 20 cm
· other regions: 5 to 10 cm over widespread areas

Temperature
During the course of the day moving from the northwest, temperatures tended to drop somewhat. At midday, the temperature at 2000 m was approximately 0 °C in western and northern regions; +2 °C in southeastern regions; -2 °C in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps.

Wind
Winds were westerly to southwesterly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity during the night. During the day, winds were southerly to southwesterly, blowing at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 10.1.2016

The precipitation is expected to come to an end during the night and skies clear up temporarily. During the day, skies will be heavily overcast for the most part, accompanied by snow showers. The snowfall level will be between 1000 and 1500 m.

Fresh snow
By Sunday evening above approximately 1000 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are anticipated:
· furthermost western part of Lower Valais, northern Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, western Bernese Alps: 15 to 30 cm; along the French border as much as 40 cm
· remaining regions, 5 to 15 cm over widespread areas. In the Glarner Alps, in northern Grisons, in Lower Engadine as well as in the valleys of Visp, in the Simplon region and in central Ticino, only a few centimeters of new fallen snow is anticipated or else it will remain dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions.

Wind
Winds will be westerly to southwesterly and are expected to intensify during the course of the day, blowing at strong to storm strength at high altitudes during the afternoon.

Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 10 January 2016

Outlook through Tuesday, 12.1.2016

Skies are expected to be heavily overcast for the most part and snowfall is anticipated frequently in southern regions above approximately 800 m and in northern regions above 1000 to 1400 m. In western regions, approximately 30 to 60 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated; in eastern and southern regions, approximately 10 to 30 cm. Winds will be westerly to southwesterly, blowing at strong to storm velocity. Avalanche danger is expected to remain tense and threatening.