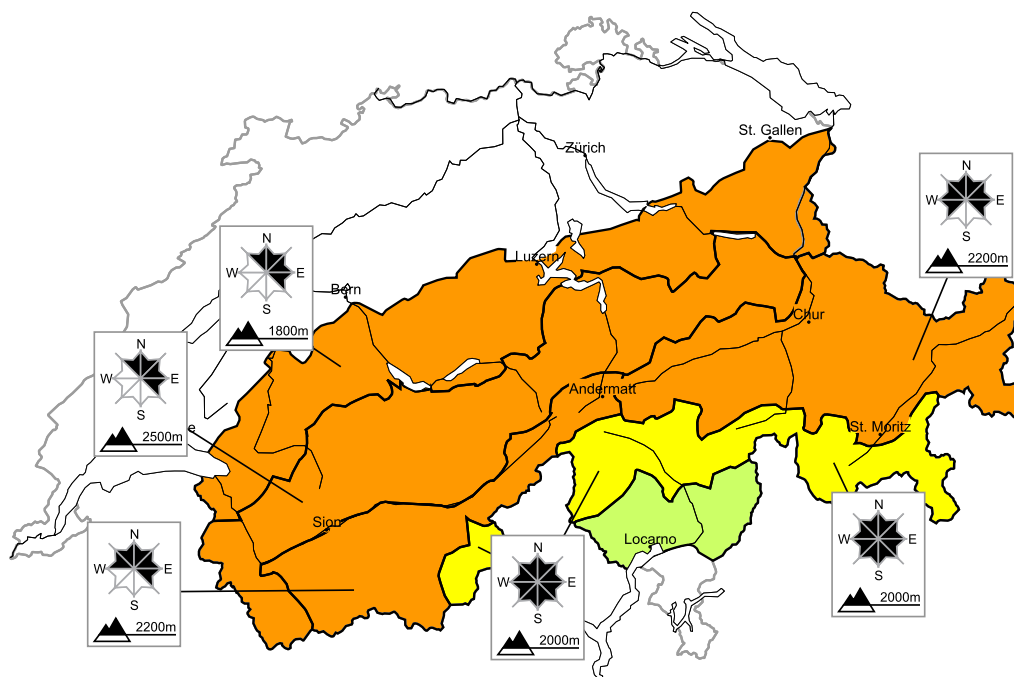


# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 23.1.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 23.1.2016, 17:00

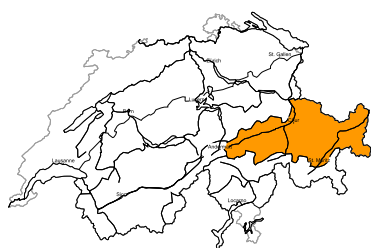
## Avalanche danger

updated on 23.1.2016, 08:00



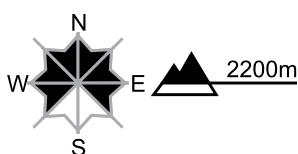
**region A**

**Level 3, considerable**



### Old snow, snow drifts

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. They can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach medium size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Remote triggering is possible. As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be avoided. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

### Full-depth avalanches

Prättigau: Below approximately 2200 m small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. They can be released at any time of day or night.

**Danger levels**

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

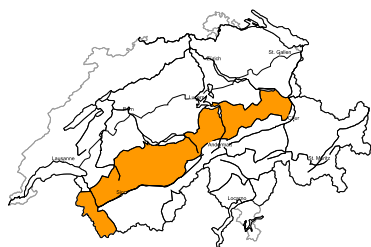
5 very high



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 Avalanche Research SLF  
 www.slf.ch

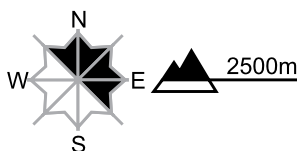
**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind easily released snow drift accumulations will form. Additionally in some places avalanches can be released in near-ground layers and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable. Transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack are especially unfavourable, in particular on very steep west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

**Full-depth avalanches**

Below approximately 2200 m small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. They can be released at any time of day or night.

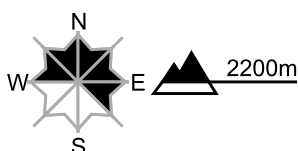
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Old snow, snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Distinct weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack in particular on west, north and east facing slopes. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. They can be released in deep layers of the snowpack and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be avoided. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

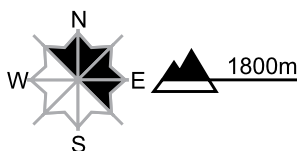
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

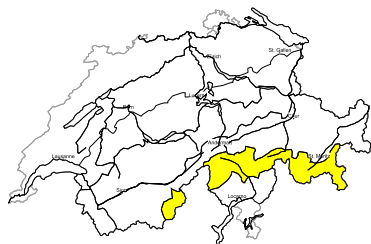
During the night easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. These represent the main danger. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided especially in steep terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

**Full-depth avalanches**

Below approximately 2200 m small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. They can be released at any time of day or night.

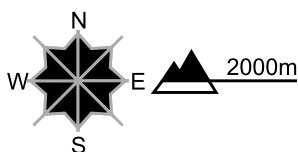
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**

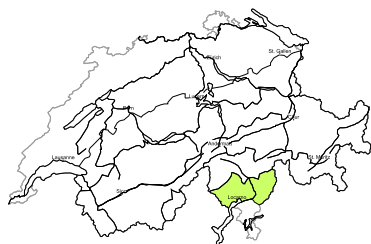


**Danger description**

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind mostly small snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be avoided especially in terrain where there is a danger of falling. Additionally in some places avalanches can be released in the old snowpack. These avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised also in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

**region F**

**Level 1, low**



**Favourable situation**

Only a little 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.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 22.1.2016, 17:00

### Snowpack

In the Prealps and in high alpine regions, as well as generally speaking in areas adjacent to ridgelines and pass areas, moderate to strong velocity winds are creating snowdrift accumulations which can be easily triggered. Inside the snowpack, deeply embedded layers near the ground are faceted and weak, particularly above 2200m on western-facing, northern-facing and eastern-facing slopes; even more threatening are the inneralpine regions, where these layers are extremely weak. In those regions, avalanches can trigger from the weakened layers even from the weight of one single skier. In the western and northern regions where snowfall has been heaviest, the weakened ground-level layers of the snowpack are in many places so deeply blanketed with subsequent snowfall that there is little probability of their releasing; if at all possible, then only with large additional loading or in transition zones from shallow to deep snow. These avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognize. In northern and western regions on steep, grass-covered slopes, gliding avalanches continue to be possible.

### Observed weather on Friday, 22.1.2016

It was sunny.

#### Fresh snow

-

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: in western regions, 0 °C; in eastern regions, -2 °C; and in southern regions, -5 °C.

#### Wind

Winds were westerly to northwesterly, blowing at light to moderate strength.

### Weather forecast through Saturday, 23.1.2016

During the night and tomorrow morning in northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. The snowfall level will be between 1000 and 1500 m. In the afternoon in western and inneralpine regions, it will become increasingly sunny. In southern regions it will be sunny for the most part and it will remain dry.

#### Fresh snow

Above 1500 m:

- central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, Samnaun: 5 to 15 cm
- elsewhere, less; in southern regions, it will remain dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in western and southern regions, -1 °C; in eastern regions, -4 °C.

#### Wind

Winds in the Prealps and in high alpine regions will be westerly, shifting then to northerly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity; in other regions generally at light to moderate strength.

### Outlook through Monday, 25.1.2016

On Sunday, it will be only partially sunny as a result of intermittent cloudbanks at high altitude. On Monday, it will be sunny by and large. Temperatures will rise markedly. The zero-degree level is expected to climb to nearly 3000 m on Monday. The hazards of dry avalanches are expected to diminish; however in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, only gradually. As a result of higher temperatures and solar radiation, increasingly frequent moist sluffs and gliding avalanches can be expected.