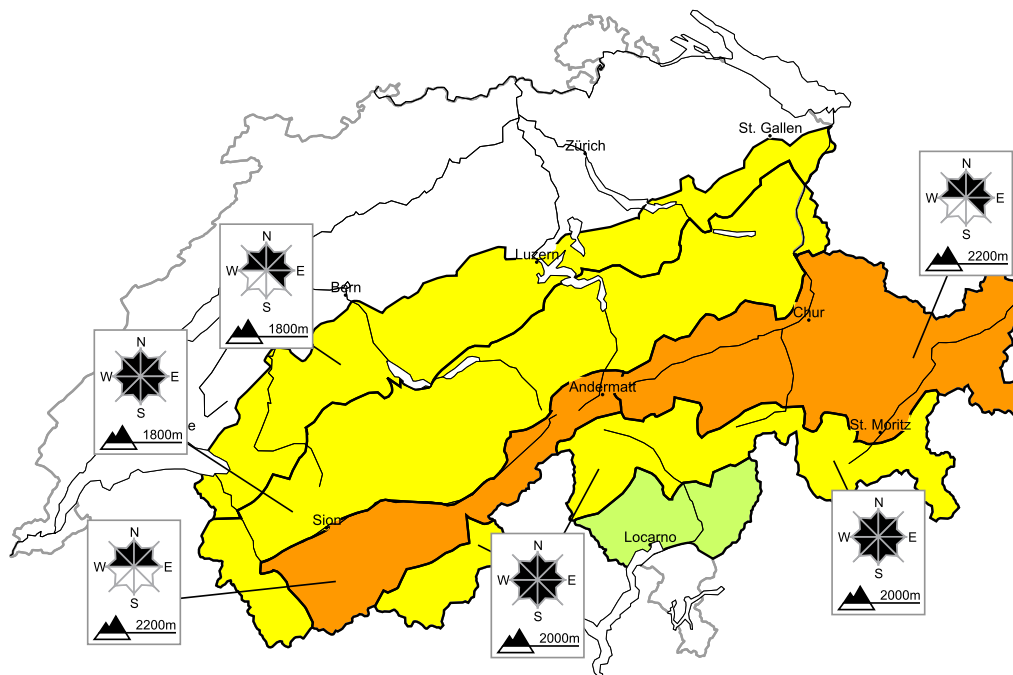


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 24.1.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 24.1.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 24.1.2016, 08:00



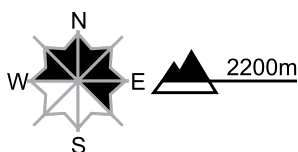
region A

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. On Saturday clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be avoided. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

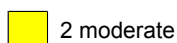
Full-depth avalanches

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.

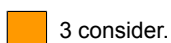
Danger levels



1 low



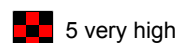
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



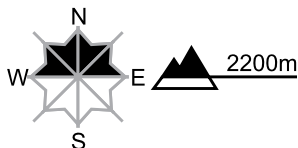
region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

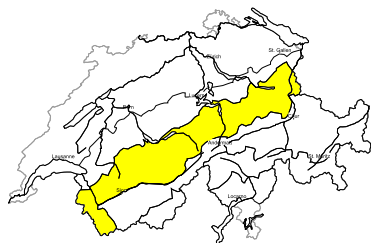


Danger description

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. On Saturday clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be avoided. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

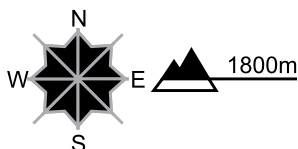
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

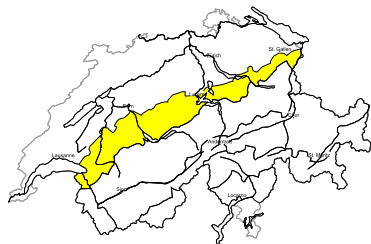
On Saturday sometimes easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Additionally in some places avalanches can be released in near-ground layers and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are rare but barely 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 careful route selection.

Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m more 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.

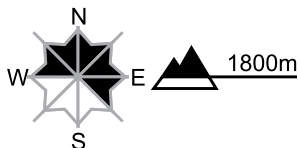
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

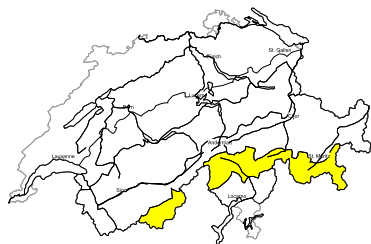
On Saturday clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. They are mostly only small but can in some cases be released easily. These represent the main danger. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided especially in steep terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Full-depth avalanches

More small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected. This applies especially on very steep sunny slopes. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. They can be released at any time of day or night.

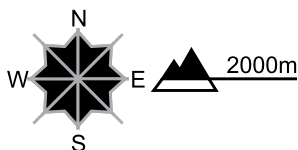
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

On Saturday mostly small snow drift accumulations have formed. 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 23.1.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of moderate to strong-velocity northwesterly winds, snowdrift accumulations formed on Saturday in high alpine regions more than anywhere else, but also in areas adjacent to ridgelines and pass areas in general. The drifted masses are for the most part small-sized, nevertheless to some extent still prone to triggering.

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 in 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 over 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.

As a result of solar radiation and heightened temperatures, increasingly frequent small-sized, but occasionally also medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible on very steep, grass-covered slopes in northern and western regions more than anywhere else.

Observed weather on Saturday, 23.1.2016

During the night in northern regions, skies were overcast by and large. There was light snowfall intermittently. In western regions and in the Valais, it swiftly became sunny during the course of the day. Along the northeastern Prealps, skies remained heavily overcast until well into the afternoon. In southern regions it was quite sunny and remained dry.

Fresh snow

In northern regions, only a few centimeters; in southern regions it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in northern regions and +1 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds were westerly to northerly, blowing at moderate strength, in the Prealps and in high alpine regions blowing at strong velocity intermittently.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 24.1.2016

Following a night of predominantly clear skies, it will be only intermittently sunny during the day, accompanied by high altitude clouds, but for the most part it will remain dry.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds will be westerly to northerly, blowing at light to moderate strength at high altitudes.

Outlook through Tuesday, 26.1.2016

On both days, it will be quite sunny and mild. On Monday, the zero-degree level is expected to climb to nearly 3000 m. The danger of dry avalanches will diminish; however, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons where the snow structuring is extremely unfavourable, only very gradually. In sun-bathed starting zones, increasingly frequent gliding avalanches can be expected.