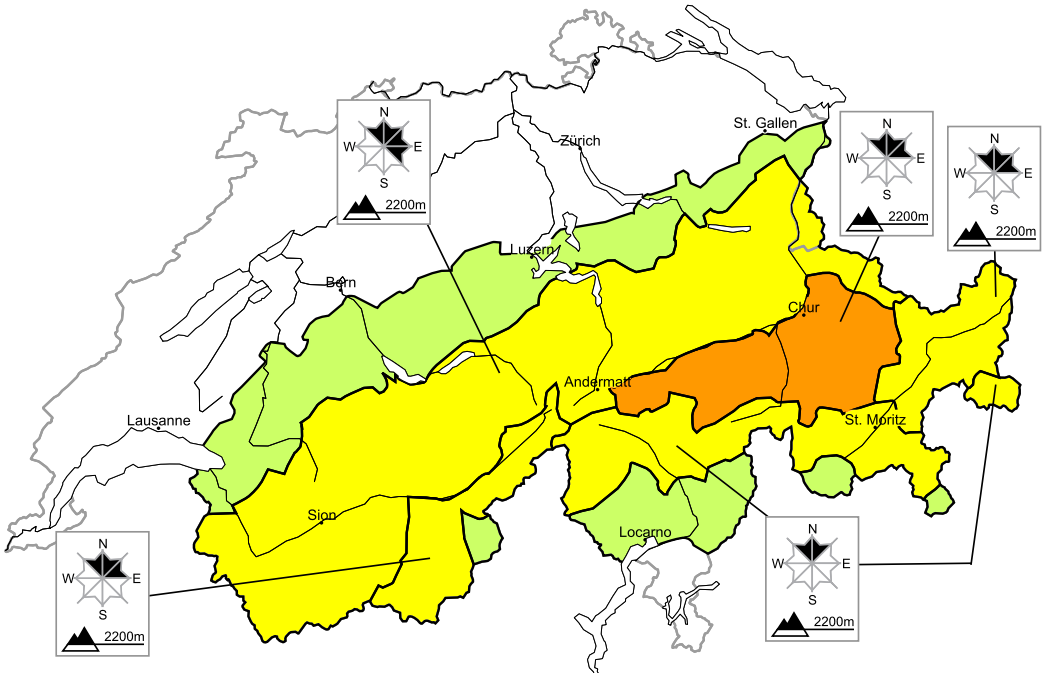
In Grisons a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 30.1.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 30.1.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

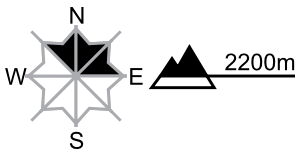
updated on 30.1.2016, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant, in particular in little used backcountry terrain. Transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack are especially precarious. Avalanches can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

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

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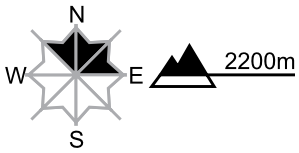
region B — Level 2, moderate

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



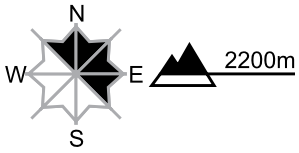
Danger description

Weak layers near the ground can be released by people in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Avalanches can reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare and barely recognisable. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.
As the day progresses mostly small snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

region C — Level 2, moderate

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



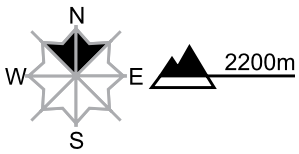
Danger description

Dry avalanches can in isolated cases be released in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable. Transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack are especially unfavourable. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.
As the day progresses snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

region D — Level 2, moderate

Old snow

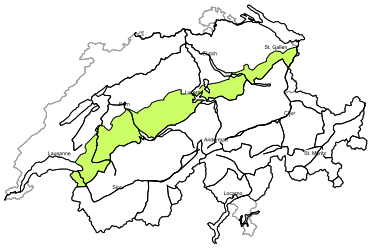
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In some places avalanches can be released in the old snowpack. The avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exclusive also in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

region E — Level 1, low



Snow drifts

As the day progresses snow drift accumulations will form. In the afternoon danger level 2 (moderate) will be reached on north and east facing slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

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

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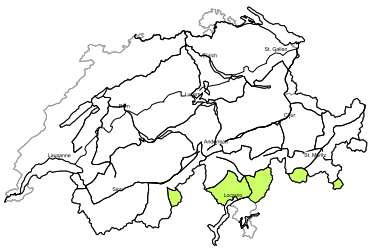
region F

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 29.1.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of solar radiation and the mild temperatures, the snowpack surface has become moistened up to intermediate altitudes over the last few days, up to high altitudes on steep, sunny slopes. On steep, south-facing slopes the surface subsequently freezes during nights when skies are clear to form a crust capable of bearing loads. Below approximately 2400 m, small to medium-sized gliding avalanches have released in western and northern regions in particular.
Inside the snowpack, deeply embedded layers near the ground are faceted and weak, particularly above 2200 m on western-facing, northern-facing and eastern-facing slopes. In the regions of the east and south where there has been far less snowfall, avalanches can trigger down to these weakened layers, released even by the weight of one single skier. The likelihood of avalanches triggering is receding only very incrementally. In the regions of the west and north where snowfall has been heaviest, these weakened ground-level layers of the snow cover are in many places so deeply blanketed over by 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.

Observed weather on Friday, 29.1.2016

Apart from residual cloud in northern regions, it was sunny.

Fresh snow
Only a few centimeters of snow in northern regions.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, 0 °C in northern regions and +3 °C in southern regions

Wind
Winds were northwesterly, in the early morning hours blowing at moderate to strong velocity, shifting to westerly later in the day and blowing at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 30.1.2016

Following a night of predominantly clear skies it turned increasingly overcast during the course of the day. In the afternoon, snowfall set in from the west. The snowfall level is at approximately 1500 m.

Fresh snow
Only a few centimeters in the furthermost western regions.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, +2 °C in northern regions and -1 °C in southern regions.

Wind
Winds will be westerly to southwesterly, intensifying significantly in velocity during the course of the day:
- On the northern flank of the Alps and in the western and northern parts of the Valais, winds as of midday will be blowing at strong to storm strength; in the Prealps this wind intensity will also extend down to intermediate altitudes.
- In the southern part of Upper Valais, in Grisons and in Ticino, winds will not reach strong velocity at high altitudes until evening.

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Outlook through Monday, 1.2.2016

Sunday

In northern regions snowfall is anticipated which will be intense and heavy. The snowfall level is expected to ascend from approximately 1500 m up to over 2000 m in western regions; and from approximately 1300 to 1800 m in eastern regions. In the Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, 30 to 60 cm of fresh fallen snow is expected. Winds will be westerly, blowing at storm velocity. The danger of dry and wet avalanches will increase rapidly and significantly in northern regions.

Monday

Throughout Sunday night, the snowfall is expected to persist. During the daytime on Monday, it will swiftly become sunny and very warm from the west. The avalanche situation is expected to remain treacherous.