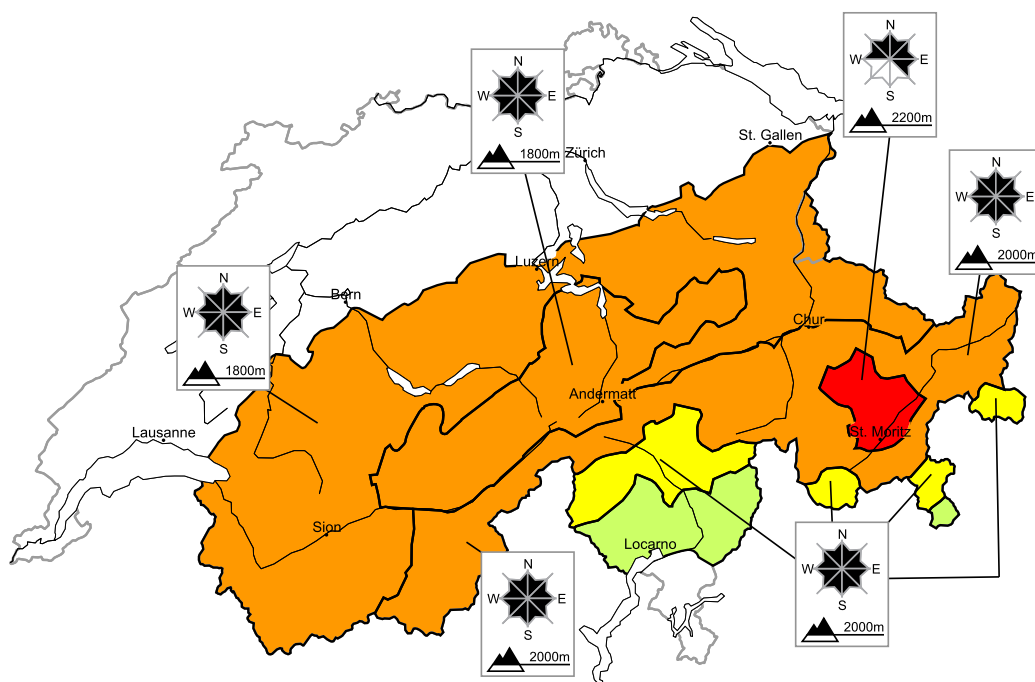


Outside marked and open pistes a critical avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 5.2.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 5.2.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 5.2.2016, 08:00



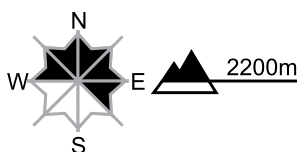
region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist deep in the old snowpack especially on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach a dangerous size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Remote triggering is probable. Avalanches can in many places be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. Avalanches capable of reaching the valley bottom are not to be expected. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for great caution and restraint.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

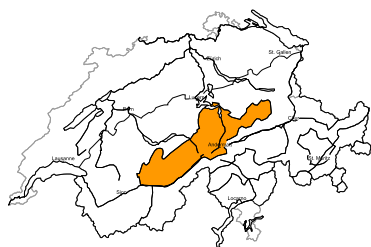
5 very high



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region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind large snow drift accumulations have formed. These can in many places be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. Avalanches can reach dangerously large size.

Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

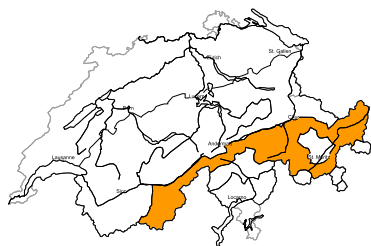
Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

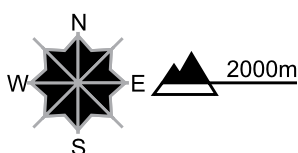
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

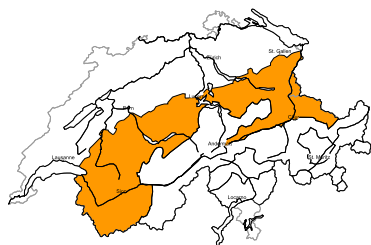


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind precarious snow drift accumulations have formed. Additionally avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Remote triggering is possible. This applies especially in Zermatt, in central Grisons and in Lower Engadine. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

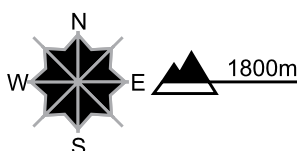
region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

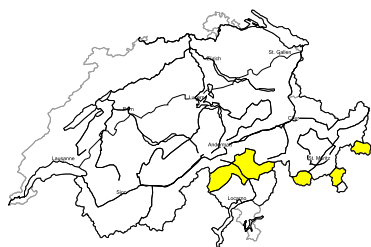
As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind sometimes large snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized natural avalanches are possible. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

region E

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

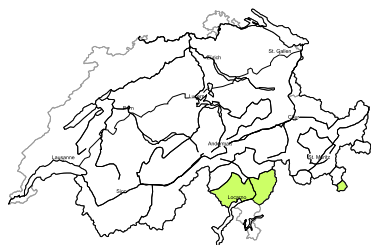


Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind small snow drift accumulations have formed. These are prone to triggering. Additionally in isolated cases 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 4.2.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

On Wednesday and Thursday, new snowdrift accumulations formed as a result of new fallen snow and strong winds in northern regions in particular. These drifted masses were deposited on top of a melt-freeze crust over widespread areas. On Thursday night in all regions except in the furthest south, additional snowdrift accumulations are expected to form. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else, they will be large-sized. The bonding of the fresh fallen and freshly drifted layers of snow to the old snowpack surface is unfavourable over widespread areas.

Deeply embedded or ground-level layers inside the snowpack on west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes above approximately 2200 m are faceted and weak. In the eastern and southern regions where there has been much less snowfall, avalanches can be triggered in the weakened snowpack fundament even by one single skier or freerider. In the regions where snowfall has been heavy, this is possible only in very isolated cases.

Observed weather on Thursday, 4.2.2016

Skies were overcast last night. In northern regions there was snowfall down to low altitudes. During the day, it was quite sunny on the southern flank of the Alps, in northern regions skies were heavily overcast by and large. On Thursday afternoon in northern regions, snowfall set in once again.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday morning and Thursday morning:

- northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm; along the northern sector of the Alpine Ridge, as much as 50 cm from region to region
- Upper Valais, northern Grisons: 10 to 20 cm
- central Grisons, Lower Engadine: 5 to 15 cm
- in other regions, less; or it remained dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -8 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions

Wind

Winds were northerly to northwesterly, blowing at moderate strength, intermittently at strong velocity.

Weather forecast through Friday, 5.2.2016

During the night snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas which in northern regions will be intermittently intensive. The snowfall level is expected to ascend to approximately 1200 m by Friday morning. During the morning in northeastern regions, the final snowfall will round to a close. During the course of the day it is expected to turn sunny from the west. In southern regions it will be sunny.

Fresh snow

- northern sector of the Alpine Ridge from the Wildstrubel into the Glarner Alps: 20 to 40 cm
- remaining regions in the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, Silvretta: 15 to 30 cm
- remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais, Bedretto, central Grisons, Engadine: 5 to 15 cm
- further to the south, less; or it will remain dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in western and southern regions, 0 °C; in eastern regions, - 3 °C; temperatures continuing to rise until evening

Wind

Winds will be northerly to northwesterly during the night, blowing at moderate to strong velocity; during the day winds will shift to westerly and be blowing at light to moderate strength.

Outlook through Sunday, 7.2.2016

Saturday

On Saturday in the northern regions it will be sunny. In southern regions cloud cover is expected to move in during the course of the day; however, it will remain dry. In the afternoon, storm strength southerly foehn winds will be blowing in the Swiss Alps. The avalanche danger in northern regions in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs is expected to remain treacherous over widespread areas. In southern regions, danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Sunday

On Sunday in eastern regions, skies will be bright as a result of foehn winds blowing. Subsequently, as was already the case in western and in southern regions, skies will become heavily overcast and above approximately 1000 m snowfall is expected to set in. The avalanche danger will increase markedly in southern regions; in other regions danger levels are not expected to change significantly.