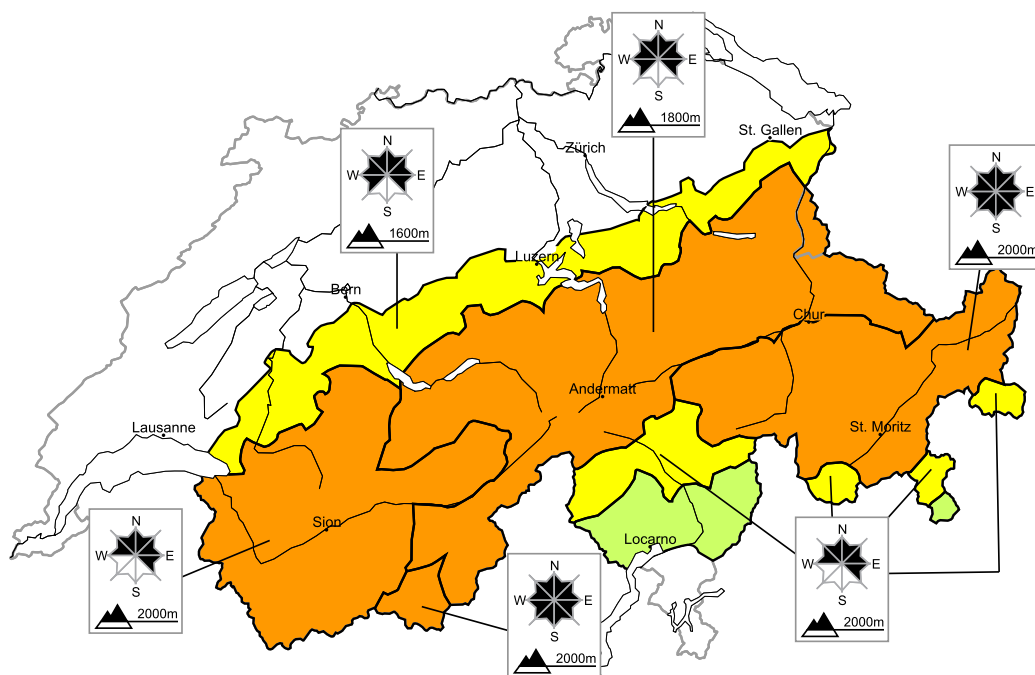


# Outside marked and open pistes a precarious avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 6.2.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 6.2.2016, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 6.2.2016, 08:00



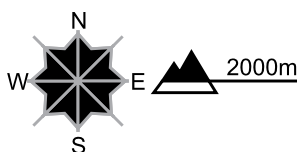
region A

Level 3, considerable



### Old snow, snow drifts

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

The extensive snow drift accumulations of the last two days are in some cases still prone to triggering. As a consequence of the storm force foehn wind precarious snow drift accumulations will form, this applies as the day progresses. 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. 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 extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

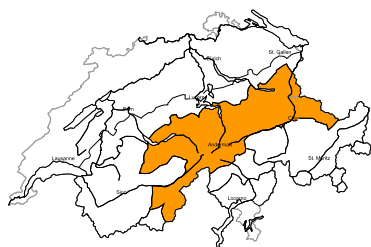
5 very high



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Avalanche Research SLF  
www.slf.ch

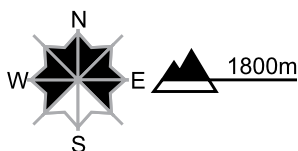
**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**

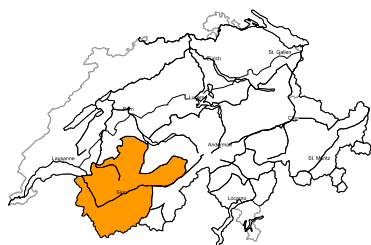


**Danger description**

The extensive snow drift accumulations of the last two days are in some cases still prone to triggering. As a consequence of the storm force foehn wind precarious snow drift accumulations will form, this applies as the day progresses. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. They can in some cases reach medium size. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

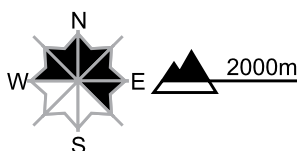
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**

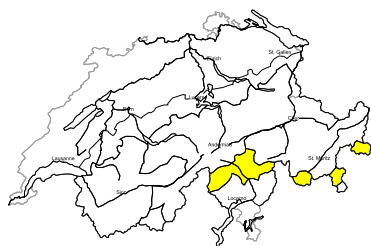


**Danger description**

The extensive snow drift accumulations of the last two days are in individual cases still prone to triggering. As a consequence of the storm force foehn wind further snow drift accumulations will form, this applies as the day progresses. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

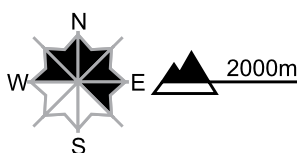
**region D**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Old snow, snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**

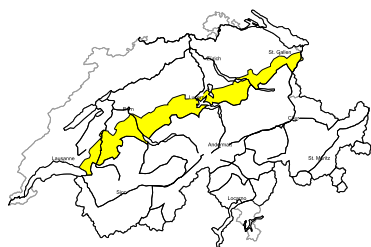


**Danger description**

Somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases still prone to triggering. As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind further snow drift accumulations will form, this applies as the day progresses. The fresh snow drift accumulations 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.

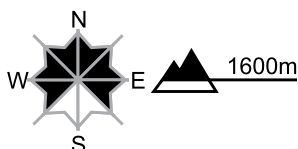
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**

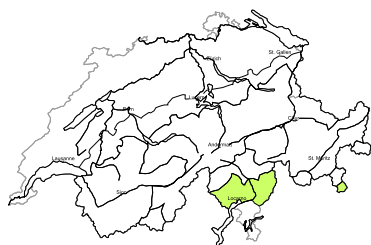


**Danger description**

The snow drift accumulations of the last two days are in some cases still prone to triggering. As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind small snow drift accumulations will form, this applies as the day progresses. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. 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 5.2.2016, 17:00

### Snowpack

Over the course of the last few days, wide ranging snowdrift accumulations have formed in the northern regions as a result of fresh fallen snow combined with strong velocity northerly winds. These drifted masses are to some extent still prone to triggering.

On Saturday during the course of the day, strong velocity southwesterly winds will arise. These winds are expected to whip up and intensively transport the still loosely-packed snow at high altitudes and in the foehn-exposed regions more than anywhere else.

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 of the north and the west where snowfall has been heavy, this is possible only in very isolated cases.

### Observed weather on Friday, 5.2.2016

During the night there was intensive snowfall from area to area in the northern regions. In the early morning hours the snowfall came to an end and the snowfall level ascended towards nearly 1200 m. Over the course of the day it turned sunny in western and southern regions. In the furthestmost eastern regions, skies did not clear until late afternoon.

#### Fresh snow

Between Wednesday morning and Friday morning:

- northern flank of the Alps, not including Prealps, from the Wildstrubel into the Glarner Alps: 60 to 80 cm
- remaining parts of the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, not including Prealps or the Valais or the upper part of Saastal and not including the southern Simplon region or Prättigau, Davos, Albulatal, St. Moritz and the northern parts of Lower Engadine: 40 to 60 cm
- Prealps, remaining parts of the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of northern and central Grisons, Bergell, remaining parts of Upper Engadine, northern Ticino: 20 to 40 cm
- in other regions, less; in southern regions it remained dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +1 °C in western and southern regions; and -2 °C in eastern regions.

#### Wind

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

### Weather forecast through Saturday, 6.2.2016

In northern regions, it will be sunny for the most part. During the course of the day, strong velocity foehn winds are expected to arise. In southern regions, skies will be heavily overcast by and large, excluding some bright spells during the morning. Nevertheless, it is expected to remain dry until evening.

#### Fresh snow

-

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +4 °C in northern regions; and -3 °C in southern regions.

#### Wind

Winds will be southwesterly, blowing at moderate strength, intensifying to strong velocity over the course of the day at high altitudes and in the foehn-exposed regions.

**Outlook** through Monday, 8.2.2016

On Sunday morning, the last bright intervals will make a final appearance in the foehn-exposed regions, in other regions skies will be heavily overcast. As a result of storm-strength southwesterly winds, heavy snowfall is expected to set in, to start with on the Main Alpine Ridge as well as southwards therefrom. During the afternoon, winds will shift to westerly and snowfall will commence in the remaining regions as well. On Monday, skies will be heavily overcast by and large, accompanied by light snowfall. On Sunday, the avalanche danger is expected to increase markedly in southern regions; in northern regions the danger levels are not expected to change significantly. On Monday, conditions for backcountry sports in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs will remain treacherous.