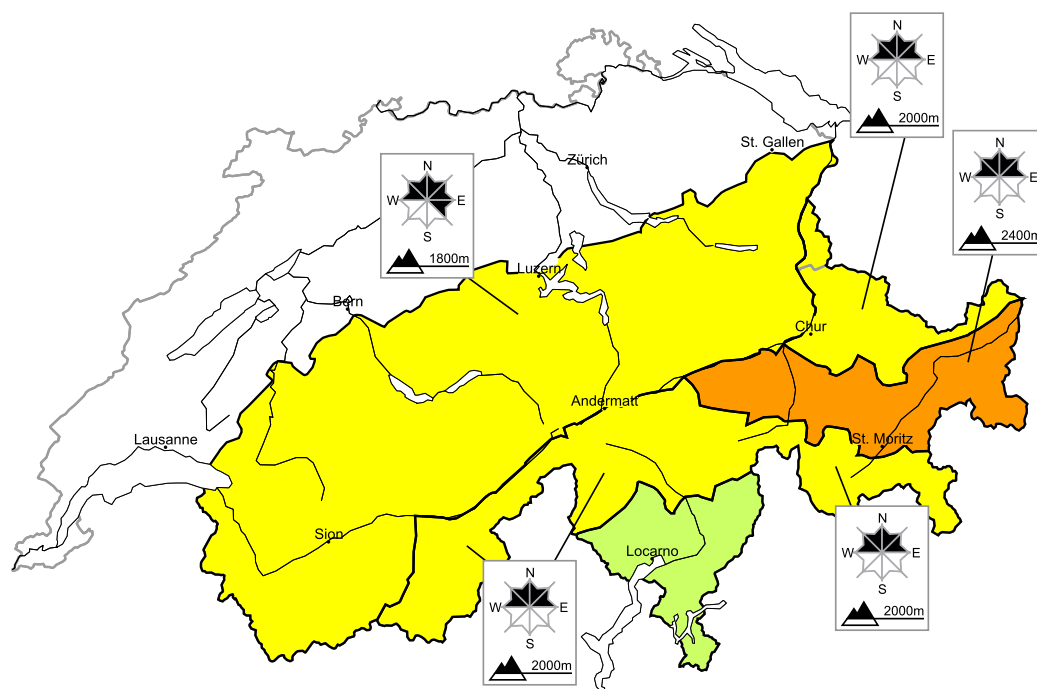


In Grisons a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 18.2.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 18.2.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 18.2.2016, 08:00



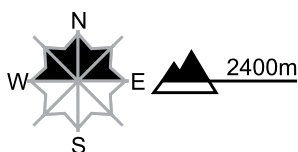
region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found especially in shady places that are protected from the wind and at transitions into gullies and bowls. In little used backcountry terrain avalanche prone locations are more prevalent. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. 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

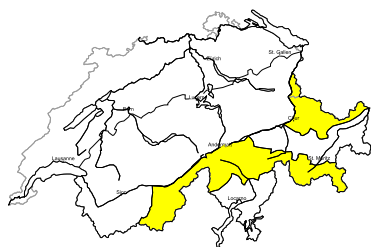
5 very high



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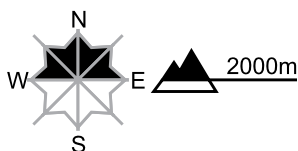
region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations

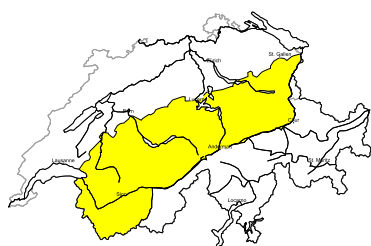


Danger description

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found especially in shady places that are protected from the wind and at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

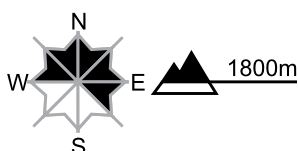
region C

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

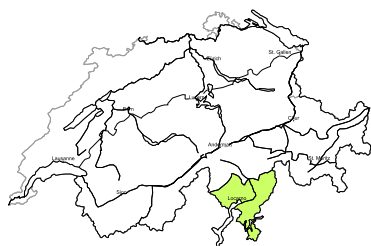
Avalanches can in some places be released in near-surface layers. The avalanche prone locations are to be found especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. In some localities small snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence especially in terrain where there is a danger of falling. Meticulous route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

Full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m. Especially in the west these can reach medium size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region D

Level 1, low



Favourable situation

Only a little snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on extremely steep slopes. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.2.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

In areas adjacent to ridgelines and pass areas, small-sized snowdrift accumulations formed from place to place on Wednesday which are prone to triggering. Furthermore, in some places avalanches can be triggered in the uppermost layers of the snow cover by the added weight of persons.

In Grisons, in southern Upper Valais and in Ticino, avalanches can be triggered in the more deeply embedded or ground-level layers of the snow cover which are faceted and weak. This occurs primarily on west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. The hazards are particularly prevalent in central Grisons and in the Engadine. In the areas of the west and north where snowfall has been heavier, the snowpack structure is frequently favourable and triggerings in more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack are unlikely.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 17.2.2016

In western and northern regions, high fog was prevalent which extended to an upper border of approximately 1600 m. Above that altitude, it was predominantly sunny. In eastern and southern regions skies were heavily overcast. There were a few rounds of intermittent snowfall, bringing small amounts of fresh fallen snow.

Fresh snow

In eastern and southern regions, only a few centimeters of new fallen snow; in other regions it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -3 °C.

Wind

During the night winds were easterly, blowing predominantly at light strength. During the day, winds were southerly to westerly, blowing at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 18.2.2016

In northern regions it will be sunny. During the course of the day, clouds will move in from the west. Nonetheless it will remain dry.

In southern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated on Wednesday night. During the day on Thursday, it will remain dry and become increasingly sunny.

Fresh snow

in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps, only a few centimeters; in other regions, it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -5 °C.

Wind

Winds were southwesterly, in the Prealps as well as in general at high altitudes blowing at moderate velocity, in other regions predominantly at light strength.

Outlook through Saturday, 20.2.2016

In northern regions on Friday, skies will be heavily overcast for the most part accompanied by a small amount of snowfall. On Saturday, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated during the course of the day. In southern regions it will be partly sunny on both days, but it is expected to remain dry.

The danger of dry avalanches is expected to incrementally diminish.

Small and medium-sized gliding avalanches can be triggered at any time of day or night, particularly in the regions of the west where snowfall has been heaviest.