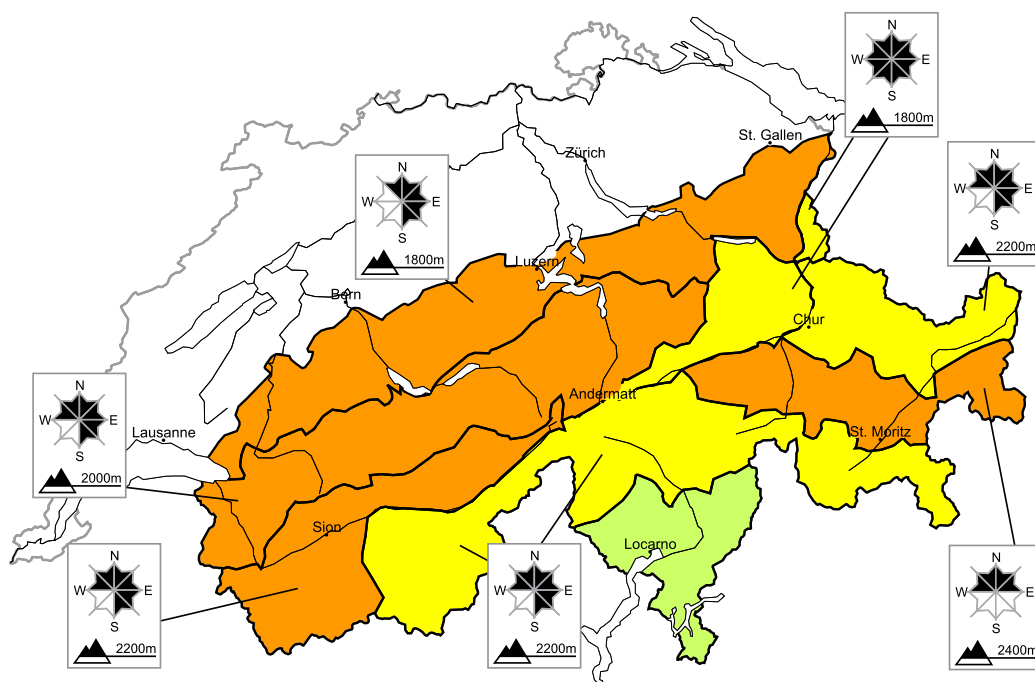


# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 26.2.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 26.2.2016, 17:00

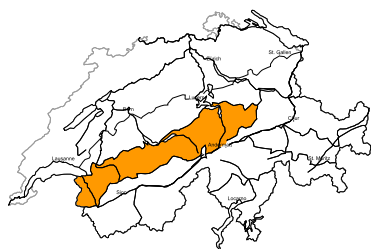
## Avalanche danger

updated on 26.2.2016, 08:00



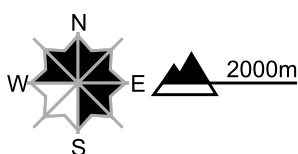
### region A

**Level 3, considerable**



#### Fresh snow and snow drifts

##### Avalanche prone locations



##### Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized avalanches are possible. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

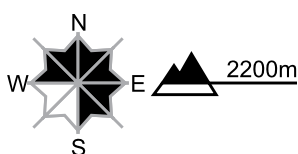
### region B

**Level 3, considerable**



#### Fresh snow and snow drifts

##### Avalanche prone locations



##### Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized avalanches are possible. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

**Danger levels**

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

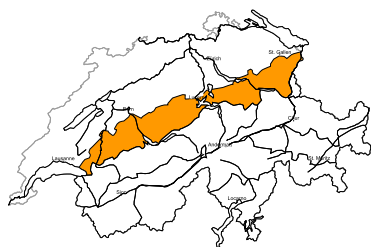
5 very high



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 Avalanche Research SLF  
 www.slf.ch

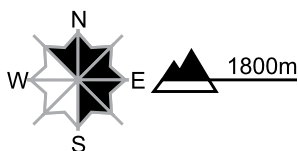
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

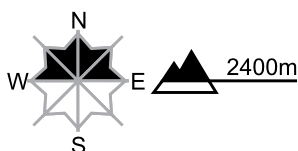
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Old snow, snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Avalanches can be released in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially in 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. Remote triggering is possible in isolated cases.

The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

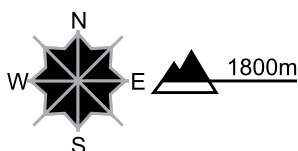
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**

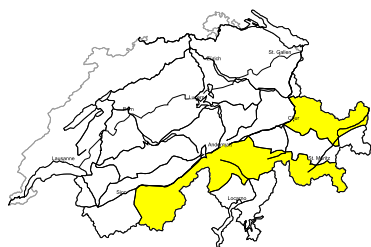


**Danger description**

The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small and in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

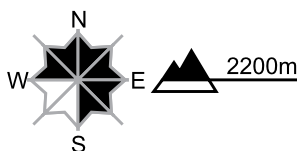
**region F**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**

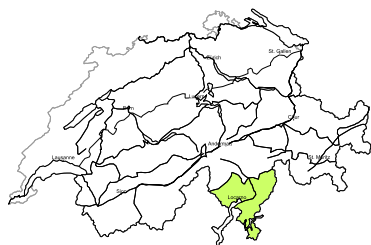


**Danger description**

The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small and in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found also adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects. Additionally avalanches can also be released in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are rare. They are to be found in particular on wind-protected shady slopes and at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Careful route selection and spacing between individuals are recommended.

**region G**

**Level 1, low**



**Favourable situation**

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. In the afternoon as a consequence of the fresh snow there will be only a slight increase in the avalanche danger.



## Snowpack and weather

updated on 25.2.2016, 17:00

### Snowpack

Below approximately 2200 m, the old snow cover is moist over widespread areas; this is the case below approximately 2500 m on south-facing slopes. As a result of the lower temperatures, a crust has formed on the snowpack surface at these altitudes. On top of this surface crust, the most recent layers of fresh fallen and freshly drifted snow of this week have been deposited, which in some cases and in some places are prone to triggering.

Weakened layers more deeply embedded inside the snowpack are found over widespread areas in the southern part of Upper Valais, in Ticino, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in the Engadine. In these regions, avalanches can fracture down to those ground-level layers, which are riddled with loosely-packed, faceted snow crystals, and thereby can easily grow to medium size. This danger threatens particularly on north-facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, the snow structure is frequently favourable (not including the most recently deposited layers of new fallen and newly drifted snow). Thus, it is unlikely that avalanches will fracture down to these deeply embedded or ground-level layers.

### Observed weather on Thursday, 25.2.2016

In the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, skies were heavily overcast, accompanied by snowfall. The snowfall level was at 1600 m to start with, subsequently dropped down to low lying areas on Thursday afternoon. On the southern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, skies were heavily overcast for the most part; however, there was next to no snowfall.

#### Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon above approximately 2000 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- Prealps, northern flank of the Alps west of the Reuss, northern part of Valais, furthestmost western part of Lower Valais: 15 to 30 cm;
- remaining sectors of northern flank of the Alps and of southern part of Valais: 5 to 15 cm
- in other regions, less; or else it remained dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in western regions and -5 °C in eastern and southern regions.

#### Wind

North of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line winds were westerly, blowing for the most part at moderate to strong velocity; further to the south blowing at light to moderate strength.

### Weather forecast through Friday, 26.2.2016

In the Prealps, the snowfall is expected to come to an end during the course of Thursday night. During the day on Friday in northern regions and in the Alpine valleys, residual clouds will still persist. At high altitudes it will be quite sunny accompanied by increasing cloudbanks through the afternoon. In southern regions, skies will still be clear in the early morning hours. Later in the morning, cloud cover will swiftly move in and as midday approaches, light snowfall is expected to set in above approximately 900 m.

#### Fresh snow

In northern regions: during the night, approximately 5 cm;

In southern regions: during the daytime, approximately 5 cm.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions.

#### Wind

Winds will be southerly, blowing at light to moderate strength.

**Outlook** through Sunday, 28.2.2016

On Saturday on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, skies will be heavily overcast accompanied by snowfall above approximately 1000 m. In northern regions, it will be partly sunny as a result of the foehn weather scenario. On Saturday night, the southern barrier-cloud effect will intensify. On Sunday, snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1000 m over widespread areas which in southern regions will be heavy. In the classic foehn-exposed regions it is expected to remain dry, by and large, with intermittent bright intervals.

Avalanche danger is expected to increase in southern regions as a result of new fallen snow, particularly strikingly in the course of Saturday night. In northern regions, the avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.