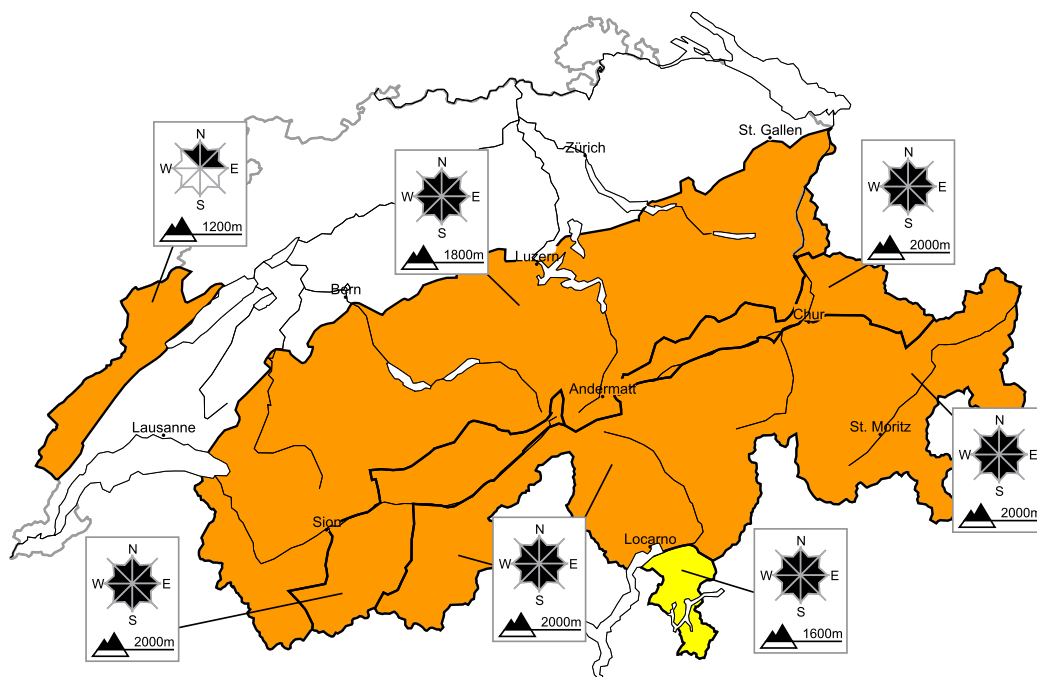


Outside marked and open pistes a critical avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 4.3.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 4.3.2016, 17:00

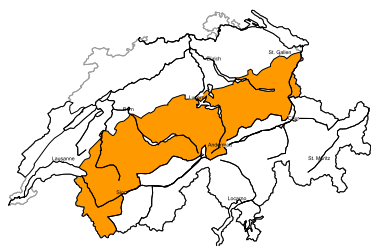
Avalanche danger

updated on 4.3.2016, 08:00



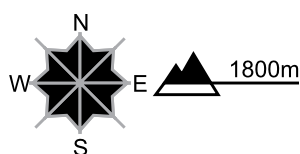
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. As the day progresses further snow drift accumulations will form, this also applies below approximately 1800 m in the regions that are exposed to the foehn wind. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Natural avalanches are possible, including medium-sized ones. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

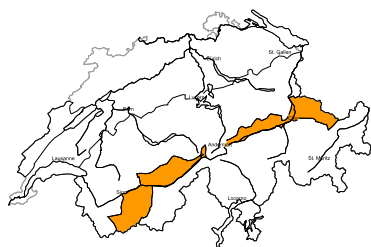
5 very high



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region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

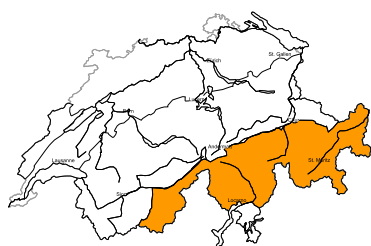


Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days represent the main danger. As the day progresses further snow drift accumulations will form, especially on north facing slopes. Avalanches 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.

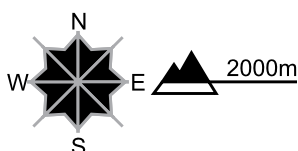
region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days represent the main danger. In the afternoon further snow drift accumulations will form. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size. This applies especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

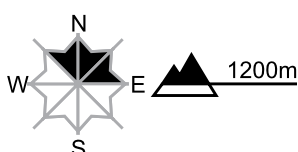
region D

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Snow drifts represent the main danger. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed in steep terrain. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

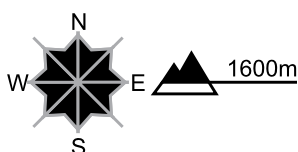
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days represent the main danger. They are to be avoided especially in very steep terrain. Careful route selection is recommended.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 3.3.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of strong velocity northwesterly winds, snowdrift accumulations formed in all regions of Switzerland on Thursday. These drifted masses are still prone to triggering. In addition, at high altitudes, as well as at intermediate altitudes in the regions typically exposed to foehn winds, new snowdrift accumulations are expected to form during the course of the day as a result of the southwesterly winds which are intensifying. These snowdrift accumulations will be extremely easy to trigger.

The snow cover structuring in southern Upper Valais, in the Ticino, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in the Engadine contains deeply embedded layers of loosely-packed, faceted snow crystals near the snowpack base at ground level. In some places avalanches can fracture in these weakened layers, sweep them away and the avalanches triggered can grow to dangerously large size, particularly on north-facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, avalanches triggered from these deeply embedded layers near the ground are unlikely.

Observed weather on Thursday, 3.3.2016

Skies were overcast for the most part during the night. There was intermittent snowfall down to low lying areas. During the daytime on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais, skies were heavily overcast. Towards midday, snowfall set in once again, from the west. In Grisons, skies were intermittently bright for brief interims; in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri it was sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday midday, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- northern flank of the Alps west of the Kander, northern Lower Valais and central Valais: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining sectors of northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm;
- remaining parts of Valais as well as Ticino and Grisons: 5 to 15 cm over widespread areas.

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds were northwesterly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity.

Weather forecast through Friday, 4.3.2016

During the night snowfall is anticipated in northern regions which will extend down to low lying areas. In the early morning hours skies will clear up in all regions of Switzerland. On the southern flank of the Alps it is expected to remain dry. During the course of the morning, new cloud cover will move in from the west. It will remain dry until afternoon.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, the following amounts of new fallen snow are expected.

- northern flank of the Alps from the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland to the Alpstein: 15 to 30 cm;
- remaining sectors of northern flank of the Alps, Valais, northern and central Grisons: 5 to 15 cm;
- elsewhere, less; or it will remain dry.

Temperature

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

Wind

During the night in high alpine regions and on the southern flank of the Alps, winds will be northwesterly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity.

In the afternoon, winds will be southwesterly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity; in the Alpine valleys, increasingly strong southerly foehn winds are anticipated.

Outlook through Sunday, 6.3.2016

Saturday

During Friday night in the furthestmost western regions and in the south of Switzerland, snowfall is expected to set in. During the morning, snowfall will commence in the other regions as well. The snowfall level will be low lying areas. On the southern flank of the Alps and in the Upper Engadine, massive amounts of fresh fallen snow are possible. The avalanche danger is expected to markedly increase in the areas of major precipitation. In the other regions, danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Sunday

On Saturday night, the snowfall will come to an end. During the daytime on Sunday, skies will be variably cloudy. The avalanche danger will diminish.