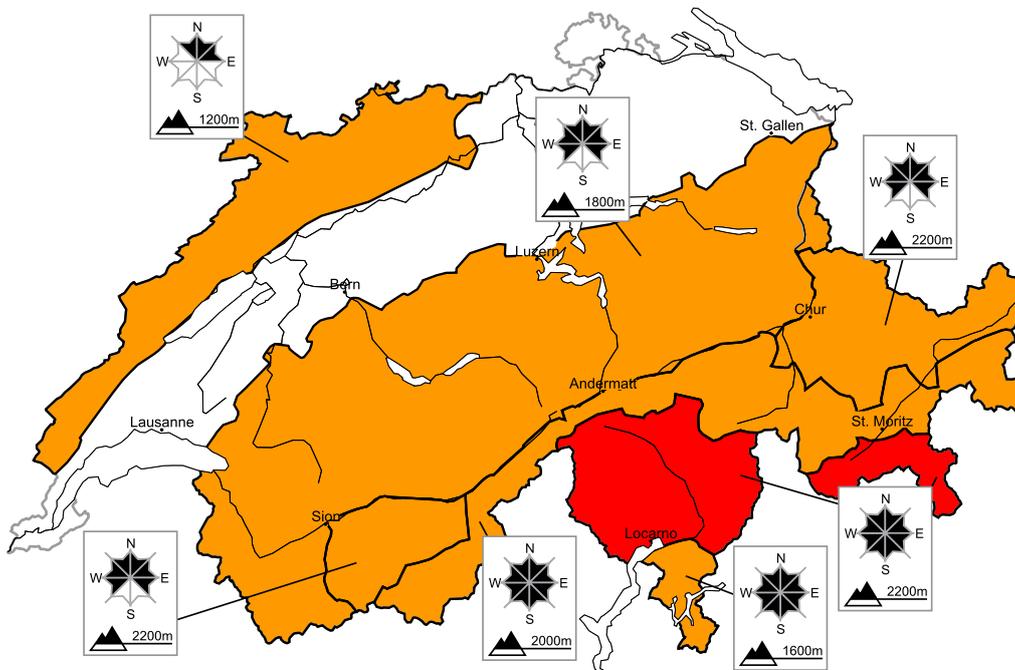


# In the afternoon a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 5.3.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 5.3.2016, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 5.3.2016, 08:00



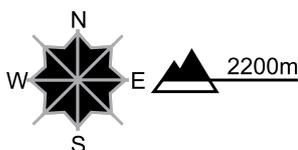
**region A**

**Level 4, high**



### Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

Significant increase in avalanche danger as the snowfall becomes more intense. As the day progresses danger level 4 (high) will be reached.

Numerous natural avalanches are to be expected, including medium-sized ones, this applies especially in the afternoon. In isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers. This applies especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m.

The conditions are dangerous for ski touring and snowshoe hiking outside marked and open pistes.

**Danger levels**

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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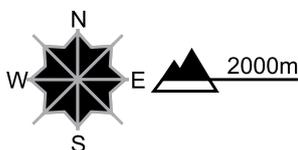
**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As the day progresses as a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind there will be a rapid increase in the avalanche danger. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. In the afternoon more frequent natural avalanches are to be expected, including medium-sized ones. In some places avalanches can penetrate deep layers. This applies especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

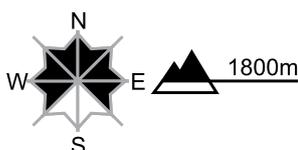
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**

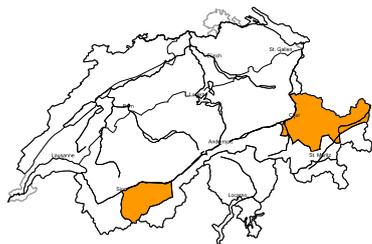


**Danger description**

As a consequence of the southwesterly wind extensive snow drift accumulations have formed, this also applies below approximately 1800 m in the regions that are exposed to the foehn wind. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily. Individual 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.

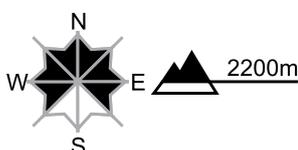
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of the southerly wind easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size, especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. 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.

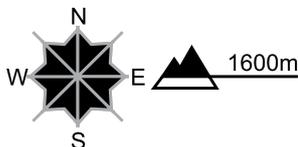
region E

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

A lot of fresh snow: Adjacent to the ridge line snow drift accumulations will form. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

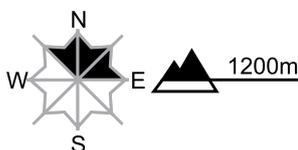
region F

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.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.3.2016, 17:00

### Snowpack

In northern regions, wide-ranging snowdrift accumulations which are easily triggered will continue to form the night as a result of strong-velocity southwesterly winds and a foehn scenario. In southern regions, the fresh fallen snow is currently quite poorly bonded with the old snow cover surface beneath it.

Weakened, unfavourably structured 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 those regions, avalanches can in some places fracture down to ground-level layers, which are riddled with loosely-packed, faceted snow crystals, sweep them away and thereby easily grow to dangerously large 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. Thus, it is unlikely that dry-snow avalanches will fracture down to these deeply embedded or ground-level layers.

### Observed weather on Friday, 4.3.2016

During the night there was intermittent snowfall. In the early morning hours, it was sunny in eastern regions; in western regions cloud cover moved in. Towards midday in western regions, precipitation began. The snowfall level ascended to 1200 m.

#### Fresh snow

- northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais: 15 to 30 cm, in the Glarner Alps as much as 40 cm;
- Upper Valais, northern and central Grisons, western part of Jura: 5 to 15 cm;
- in other regions, less; or it remained dry.

Thus, in sum over the last three days there was more than 50 cm of fresh fallen snow from region to region on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Upper Valais.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions.

#### Wind

- During the night, winds will be northwesterly, blowing at moderate strength, intermittently at strong velocity.
- During the daytime, winds will be southerly to southwesterly, blowing intermittently at strong velocity in the classic foehn-exposed zones and in the northern regions, as well as in the Jura.

### Weather forecast through Saturday, 5.3.2016

During the night in southern and in western regions, snowfall is expected to set in, which during the course of the morning tomorrow will spread into eastern regions as well. In southern regions, intensive snowfall is anticipated. The snowfall level will extend down to low lying areas.

#### Fresh snow

By Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of new fallen snow are anticipated above 1500 m:

- Main Alpine Ridge from the Nufen Pass into the Bernina region and southwards therefrom: 40 to 70 cm;
- Valais sector of the Main Alpine Ridge from Monte Rosa as far as the Nufen Pass, remaining parts of the Gotthard region, remaining regions of central Grisons and the Upper Engadine, together with Val Müstair: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps, of the Valais and Grisons, and of the Jura: 15 to 30 cm.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -8 °C in northwestern regions and -4 °C in southeastern regions.

#### Wind

During the night winds will be southerly to southwesterly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity at high altitudes (still stronger foehn winds in the Alpine valleys);

during the daytime in eastern regions, winds will be southwesterly, still blowing at moderate to strong velocity; in the other regions, winds will be westerly, blowing at moderate strength.

**Outlook** through Monday, 7.3.2016

In northern regions, weather conditions will be variable and instable on both days, accompanied by snow showers down to low lying areas. In southern regions, the precipitation is expected to come to an end on Saturday night. On Sunday, conditions will remain variable. On Monday, it will be quite sunny.

Avalanche danger levels are expected to diminish as the precipitation incrementally comes to an end. The avalanche scenario, however, is expected to remain critical on Sunday, particularly in southern regions in the major areas of participation.