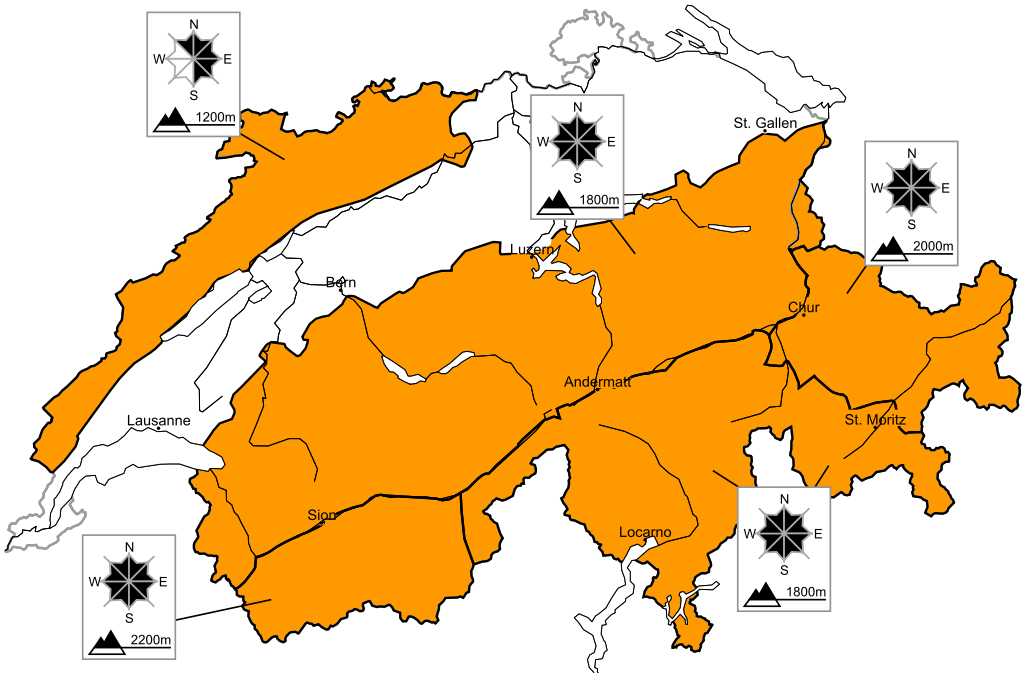
Outside marked and open pistes a critical avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 6.3.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 6.3.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

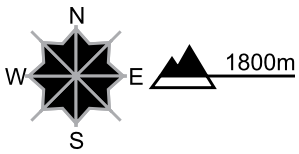
updated on 6.3.2016, 08:00



region A | **Level 3, considerable**

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

A lot of fresh snow. As a consequence of the sometimes moderate wind extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. Individual natural avalanches are to be expected. Additionally in isolated cases 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.

Wet avalanches

On cut and grassy slopes mostly small moist snow slides are to be expected below approximately 1800 m.

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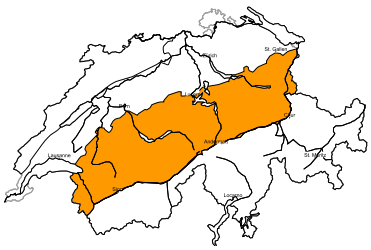
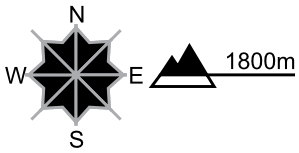
region B — Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

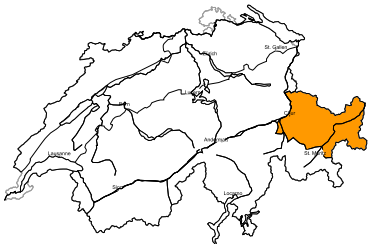
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

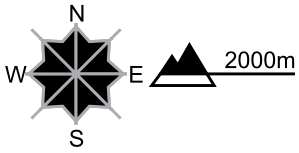
Somewhat older snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. During the night further snow drift accumulations have formed.
Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations can be released easily. Avalanches can reach medium size. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C — Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



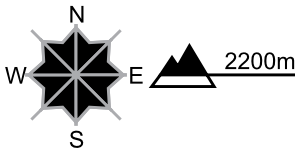
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released, even by a single winter sport participant.
Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size, 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.

region D — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In the last two days mostly small snow drift accumulations have formed. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant.
Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size, 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.

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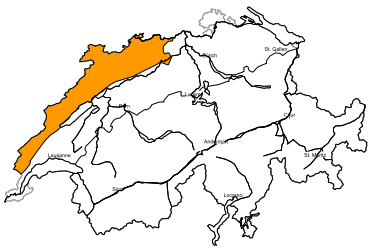
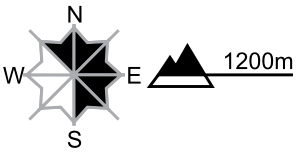
region E

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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 5.3.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

On Friday night in northern regions, as a result of the strong-velocity southwesterly winds, large-sized snowdrift accumulations formed over widespread areas which are prone to triggering. These drifted masses have now been blanketed over by new fallen snow and have thereby become nearly impossible to recognize. In southern regions there was intensive snowfall on Saturday; however, the southerly winds were blowing for the most part at merely light to moderate strength.
On Saturday night, the westerly to northwesterly winds, which in some places will be blowing at strong velocity, are expected to whip up and transport the snow once again. Thereby, additional snowdrift accumulations will form which will also be prone to triggering.
Weakened, in some places 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 Saturday, 5.3.2016

During the first part of the night in western regions, snowfall set in. In the latter part of the night, precipitation began also in southern regions which during the course of the day extended into the eastern regions. In the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps there was snowfall which intermittently was intensive.

Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:
- central sector of southern flank of the Alps: 40 to 60 cm;
- western part of the Jura, Fribourg and Vaud Alps, northern Lower Valais, Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon region well into the Bernina region, Bergell, Val Poschiavo: 20 to 40 cm;
- in other regions: 10 to 20 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -5 °C.

Wind

- During the night, winds were southerly to southwesterly, blowing for the most part at strong velocity, in the foehn-exposed valleys at storm strength.
- During the day in southern and eastern regions, winds were southerly, blowing by and large at moderate strength. In other regions, winds were westerly, blowing at light to moderate strength.

Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 6 March 2016

Weather forecast through Sunday, 6.3.2016

During the night tonight, snowfall is anticipated more than anywhere else in the furthermost western regions and in the east. During the day in western and southern regions, some scattered bright intervals are possible, particularly during the morning. In the afternoon in western and northern regions, there will be only a small amount of precipitation. The snowfall level will be at low altitudes.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday midday and Sunday midday, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are expected:

- central Grisons, Prättigau: 20 to 30 cm;
- furthermost western part of Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Grisons: 10 to 20 cm; in other regions, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -10 °C in northern regions and - 7°C in southern regions.

Wind

- During the night in western and northern regions, winds will be westerly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity. In northern Ticino, winds will be northwesterly, blowing for the most part at strong velocity.
- During the daytime, winds will be westerly, blowing at light to moderate strength.

Outlook through Tuesday, 8.3.2016

In northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy on both days and a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. In southern regions, it will be partly sunny on both days. It is expected to remain cold, accompanied by light winds. The avalanche danger levels are expected to incrementally diminish.