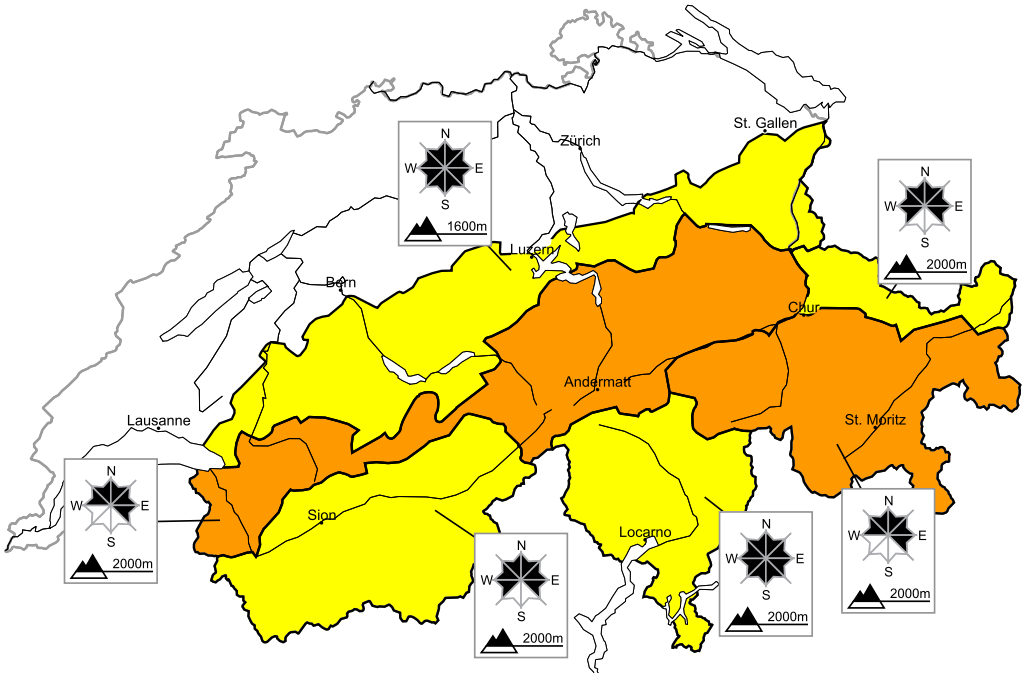
Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 10 March 2016

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 10.3.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 10.3.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

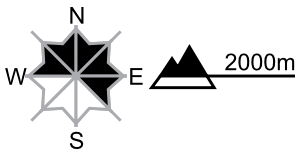
updated on 10.3.2016, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of Wednesday remain in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in particular in steep terrain. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones.
Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers. This applies especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Remote triggering is possible in isolated cases.
Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call 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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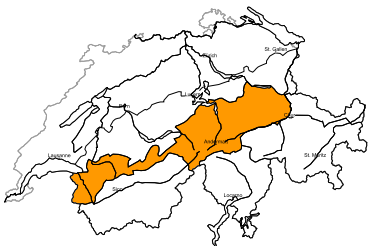
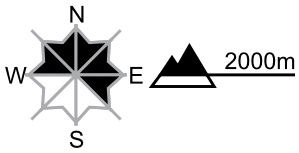
region B — Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

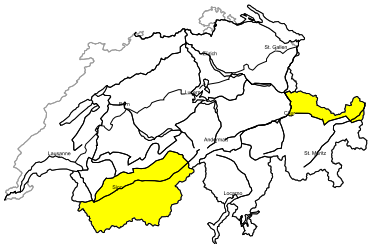
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

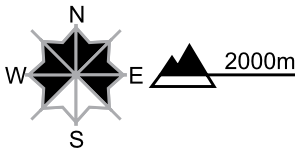
The snow drift accumulations of Wednesday remain in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in particular in steep terrain. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

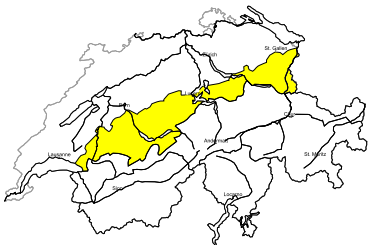
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

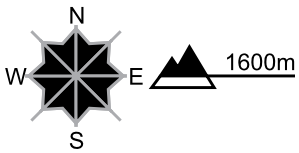
The snow drift accumulations of Wednesday remain in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be bypassed in steep terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. In high Alpine regions the danger is one level higher.
Southern Upper Valais and Lower Engadine: In isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size, especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The more recent snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Avalanches are rather small. Careful route selection is recommended.

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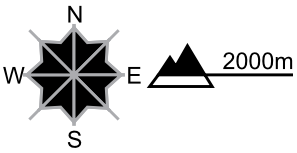
region E

Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers. This applies especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Careful route selection is important.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 9.3.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

Moderate to strong-velocity southwesterly winds whipped up and transported a great deal of loosely-packed snow on Wednesday, in the northern sector of the Alpine Ridge, in the Gotthard region and in Grisons more than anywhere else. Particularly in areas adjacent to ridgeliness and on steep, north-facing slopes, the snowdrift accumulations are quite easy to trigger over widespread areas.
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, in the Engadine, in Val Poschiavo and in Val Müstair. These layers have now been frequently blanketed over by a great deal of new fallen snow. In those regions, avalanches can in some places fracture down to these more deeply embedded layers which are riddled with loosely-packed, faceted snow crystals, sweep a large part of the snowpack away and thereby easily grow to dangerously large size. This danger threatens particularly on north-facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Since last weekend, several such avalanches have been observed. 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 Wednesday, 9.3.2016

On the southern flank of the Alps, skies were variably cloudy, heavily overcast in some places; in the other regions, it was predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000, between -3 °C in northern regions and -7 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- During the night, winds will be northerly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity in the central sector of the Main Alpine Ridge.
- During the daytime in the classic foehn-exposed regions and in the northern sector of the Alpine Ridge winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity, in other regions at light to moderate strength, from southerly directions.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 10.3.2016

Above the high fog in northern regions (upper borderline at 1500 m) it will be sunny for the most part.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

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

Wind

Along the northern flank of the Alps, brisk bise winds are expected to arise during the course of the day. In other regions winds will be northerly to northeasterly, blowing for the most part at light strength.

Outlook through Saturday, 12.3.2016

On both days in northern regions, cloud cover resembling high fog (with its upper borderline at 1500 - 2000m) will prevail. In the other regions, it is expected to be predominantly sunny. The avalanche danger levels will incrementally diminish.