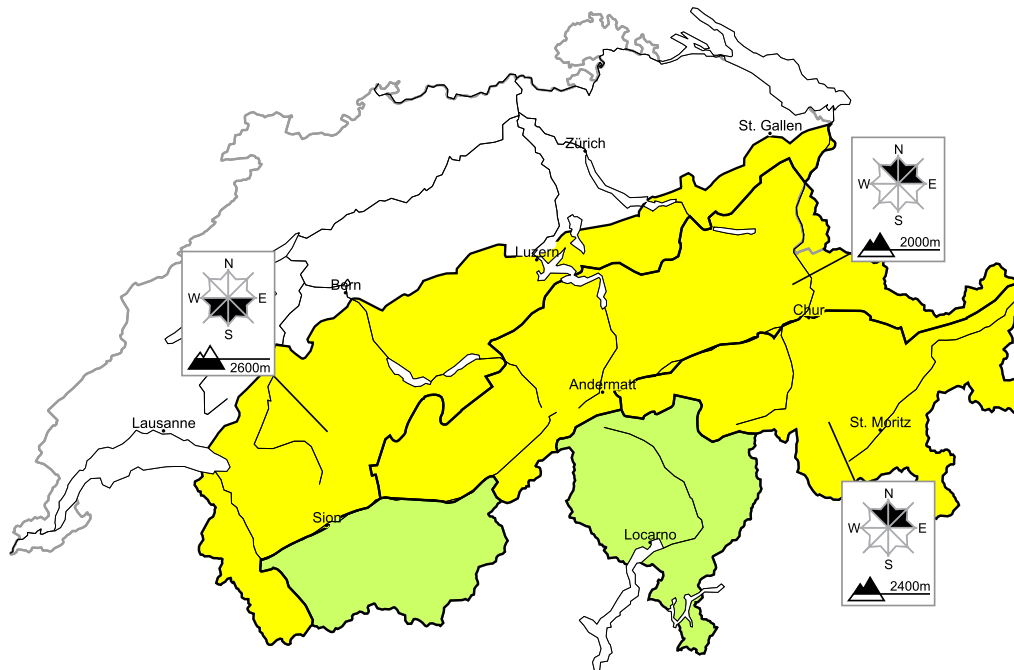


Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 27.3.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 27.3.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 27.3.2016, 08:00



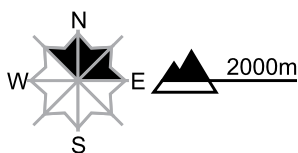
region A

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last three days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. This applies especially on very steep north and east facing slopes. As a consequence of the moderate wind further snow drift accumulations will form. Backcountry tourers or freeriders can release avalanches. Mostly these are small. Careful route selection is important.

Full-depth avalanches

On very steep east, south and west facing slopes more mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2600 m. Also on north facing slopes individual full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

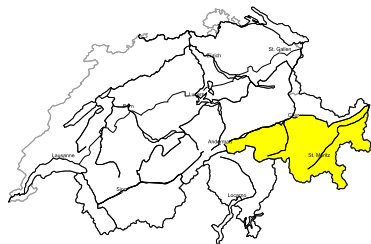
3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

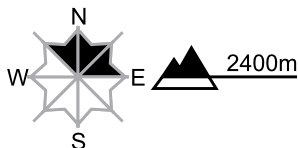
region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last three days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. This applies especially on very steep north and east facing slopes. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised also in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

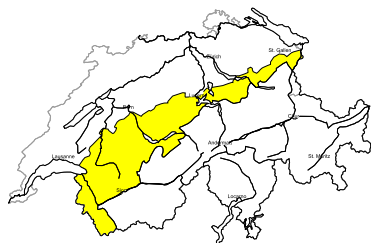
Additionally avalanches can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach medium size in isolated cases. These avalanche prone locations are very rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. They are to be found in particular on little used, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

Individual full-depth avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m.

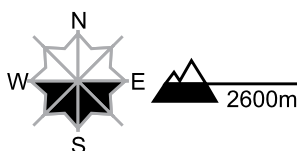
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wet and full-depth avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

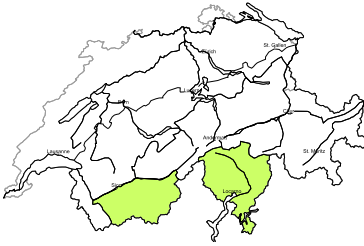
On steep east, south and west facing slopes small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2600 m. Also on north facing slopes individual full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Snow drifts

Adjacent to the ridge line small snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in terrain where there is a danger of falling. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more widespread and the danger is slightly greater.

region D

Level 1, low



Snow drifts

In particular adjacent to the ridge line small snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in terrain where there is a danger of falling. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more widespread and the danger is slightly greater.

Full-depth avalanches

Individual full-depth avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 26.3.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

The snowdrift accumulations from Good Friday and Holy Saturday have been deposited on top of an unfavourably structured old snowpack surface composed of loosely-packed, faceted snow crystals, particularly on north-facing and east-facing slopes. On very steep slopes in the cited areas, they can still be triggered with ease. As a result of southerly foehn winds blowing intermittently at moderate-velocity, still more snowdrift accumulations are in the process of forming on north-facing slopes more than anywhere else. These drifted masses are generally small-sized, but can be easily triggered. The old snow cover is favourably structured over widespread areas. In southern Upper Valais, in northern Ticino, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons, more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack are riddled with loosely-packed, unbonded, faceted snow crystals over widespread areas on north-facing slopes, weakening the snowpack overall. In very isolated cases in the areas cited, avalanches can fracture down to these ground-level layers and release.

On east-facing, south-facing and west-facing slopes at high altitudes, a thin melt-freeze crust tends to form during the night. During the course of the day, isolated wet-snow and gliding-snow avalanches can subsequently be expected.

Observed weather on Saturday, 26.3.2016

During Friday night in northern and eastern regions, intermittent snowfall was registered above approximately 1200 m. In southern and western regions, skies were for the most part clear in the latter part of the night. During the morning of Holy Saturday in eastern regions, skies were still heavily overcast, subsequently became increasingly sunny. In western and in southern regions, it was sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday morning:

- eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, together with Samnaun: 10 to 20 cm, as much as 25 cm from place to place;
- eastern part of Bernese Alps, central sector of the northern flank of the Alps, Upper Valais, Gotthard region, northern and central Grisons: 5 to 15 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, less; or else it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +3 °C in western and southern regions and -1 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

Winds were westerly to northwesterly, blowing at moderate strength during the night, intermittently at strong velocity; slackening off during the course of the morning; blowing at light strength during the afternoon.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 27.3.2016

Skies will be clear for the most part tonight. In western regions, cloud cover will move in as morning approaches. During the morning in eastern regions, skies will brighten as a result of foehn winds. In other regions of Switzerland, skies will be predominantly overcast. In northern and western regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated above 1200 m.

Fresh snow

Northern flank of the Alps, Valais: only a few centimeters.

Temperature

In northern regions at midday, following a night of mild temperatures, at 2000 m, -3 °C and falling; in southern regions, 0 °C.

Wind

Winds will be southwesterly, blowing at moderate strength during the night, intermittently at strong velocity; during the day at light to moderate strength.

Outlook through Tuesday, 29.3.2016

On Easter Monday in eastern regions, skies will be intermittently bright; in other regions, heavily overcast by and large. During the afternoon, precipitation will set in from the west. On Tuesday, skies will be overcast for the most part, accompanied by a small amount of precipitation.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly. Avalanche prone locations are found on very steep north-facing slopes more than anywhere else. The hazards of falling and being swept along need to be taken into consideration. The danger of wet-snow and gliding avalanches is expected to increase somewhat during the course of each day.