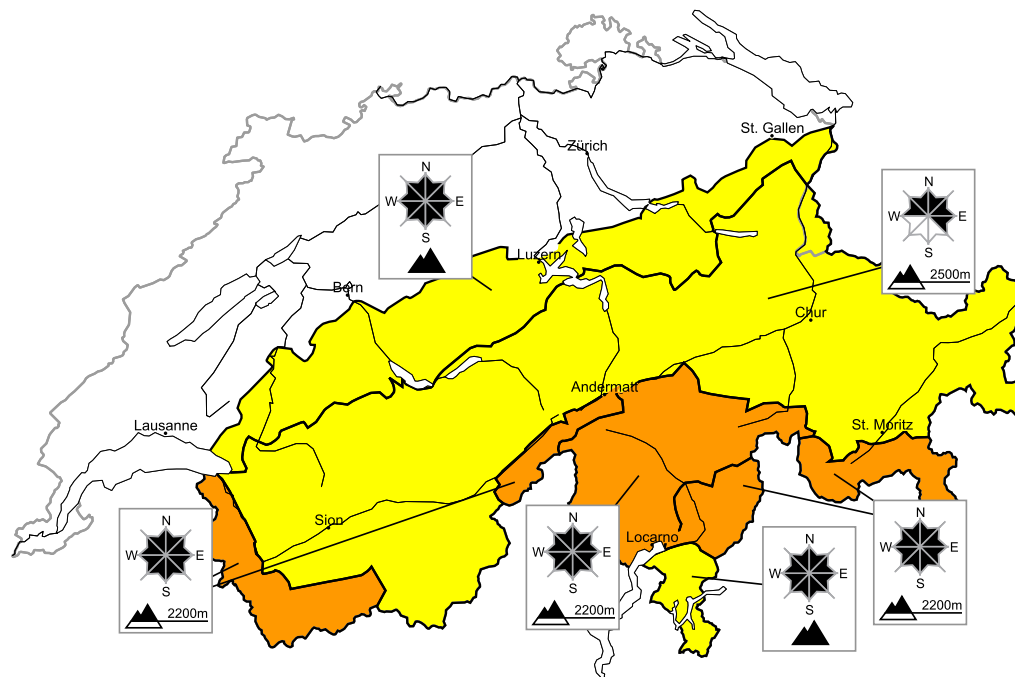


Significant increase in avalanche danger in the west and in the south

Edition: 16.4.2016, 17:00 / Next update: 17.4.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 16.4.2016, 17:00



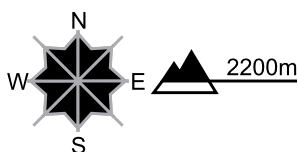
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



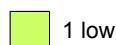
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind large snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released very easily or triggered naturally. Numerous small and medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. As the day progresses as a consequence of the snowfall there will be an additional increase in the avalanche danger to level 4 (high). In the typical avalanche paths avalanches can in some cases reach intermediate altitudes. This applies especially on north facing slopes. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered. Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain numerous small and medium-sized avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2200 m, especially on north facing slopes.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

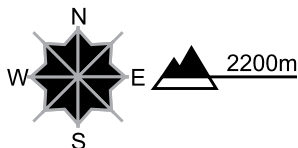


region B **Level 3, considerable**



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



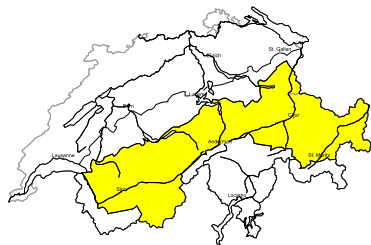
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Individual small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

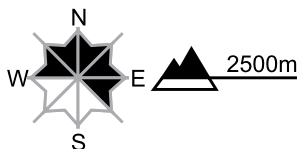
As a consequence of the rain numerous small and medium-sized avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2200 m, especially on north facing slopes.

region C **Level 2, moderate**



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



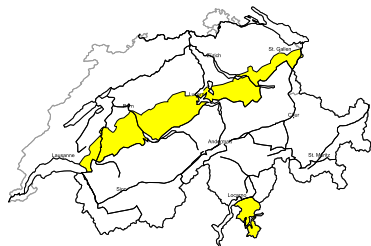
Danger description

The mostly small snow drift accumulations of Saturday can be released easily. As the day progresses further snow drift accumulations will form. In the afternoon as a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind there will be an increase in the avalanche danger to level 3 (considerable). Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches

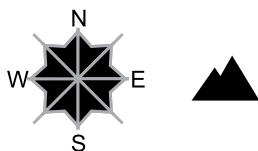
As a consequence of the rain more frequent small and medium-sized wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2200 m, especially on north facing slopes.

region D **Level 2, moderate**



Wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the rain mostly small wet avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m, especially on north facing slopes.

Snow drifts

At high altitude small snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be avoided especially in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.4.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of fresh fallen snow and, in some places, strong-velocity winds, snowdrift accumulations are currently being formed which are prone to triggering. These drifted masses, where they occur at high altitudes in the major areas of precipitation in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps, are large-sized. Their bonding to the old snowpack surface beneath them is, in this early phase, quite weak. Numerous medium-sized naturally triggered avalanches can be expected in these regions.

The old snow cover is favourably structured for the most part. The snowpack is thoroughly wet below approximately 2500 m on north-facing slopes, below approximately 3000 m on steep, south-facing slopes. In southern Upper Valais, in northern Ticino, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons, the more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack on north-facing slopes are riddled with unbonded, loosely-packed and faceted snow crystals in some places, which weaken the entire snowpack. In those regions more than anywhere else, wet avalanches can fracture down to those ground-level layers, release, and subsequently sweep along the entire snowpack. On north-facing slopes over widespread areas there is still an area-wide snowpack above 1400 to 1800 m, on south-facing slopes approximately 500 m further up.

Observed weather on Saturday, 16.4.2016

Skies were heavily overcast for the most part. At high altitudes there was precipitation resembling showers, and a small amount of snowfall from region to region, particularly on the southern flank of the Alps.

Fresh snow

Above 2000 m:

- northern Ticino: 10 to 20 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimeters; or it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +2 °C.

Wind

Winds were southerly to westerly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 17.4.2016

Skies will be heavily overcast during the night. At high altitudes, snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas which will be intensive and continuing in southern regions. During the daytime, precipitation is expected over widespread areas. In the eastern regions of Grisons, it is expected to remain dry until afternoon.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday evening and Sunday evening:

- southern Tavetsch, Val Sumvitg, Zervreila, Hinterrhein, northern and central Ticino, upper Moesano: 50 to 80 cm;
- furthestmost western part of Lower Valais, Valais sector of Main Alpine Ridge west of the Dent Blanche, remaining parts of central sector of Main Alpine Ridge, eastern sector of Main Alpine Ridge from Avers into the Bernina: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining regions: 10 to 20 cm.

The snowfall level in southern regions will be approximately 2000 m, in northern regions the snowfall level will descend from 2000 m down to 1500 m during the afternoon. The overall amounts of fresh fallen snow will be reached above 2400 m on the southern flank of the Alps; above 2200 m in northern regions.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in northern regions and +2 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be blowing from southwesterly directions at moderate to strong velocity at high altitudes and in high alpine regions.

Outlook through Tuesday, 19.4.2016

On Monday in northern regions, skies will still be overcast to begin with, subsequently it will turn increasingly sunny. During the afternoon, convective cloud build-up is anticipated. On Tuesday, it will be quite sunny in northern regions, accompanied by convective cloud build-up in the afternoon. In southern regions it will be quite sunny on both days. The hazards of dry-snow avalanches are expected to decrease. As a consequence of solar radiation and daytime warming, numerous moist and wet-snow avalanches can be expected on Monday in particular.