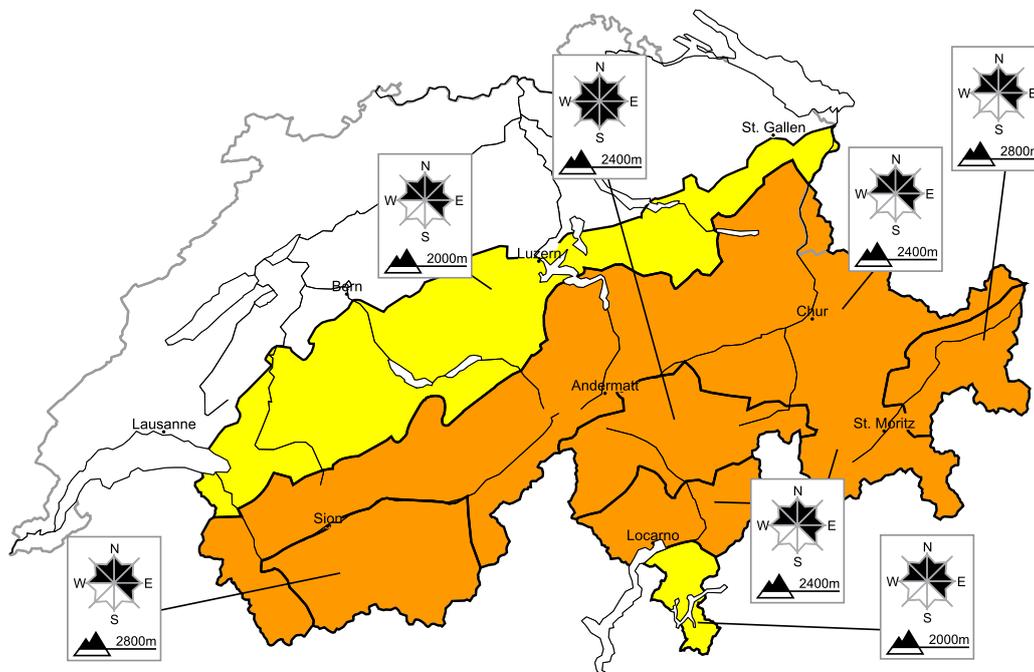


At elevated altitudes a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 17.4.2016, 17:00 / Next update: 18.4.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 17.4.2016, 17:00



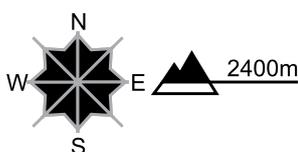
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



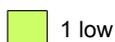
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind large snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released very easily or triggered naturally. Numerous small and medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected, this applies especially during the night. In particular on north facing slopes individual sometimes large avalanches are possible. Transportation routes situated at higher altitudes can be endangered. Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

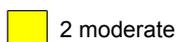
Wet avalanches

As a consequence of solar radiation moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected, including medium-sized ones.

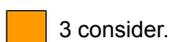
Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



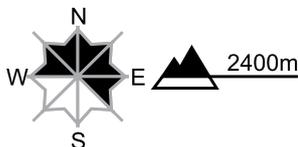
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form, especially on north and east facing slopes. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are present in all aspects. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

Moist snow slides and avalanches are possible. In the event of prolonged bright spells this applies in particular.

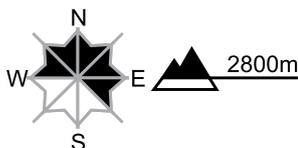
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Avalanches can over a wide area be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

Moist snow slides and avalanches are possible. In the event of prolonged bright spells this applies in particular.

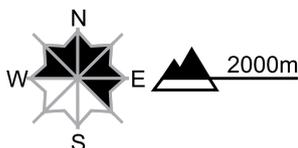
region D

Level 2, moderate



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

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

Wet avalanches

In the afternoon moist snow slides and avalanches are possible. In the event of prolonged bright spells this applies in particular.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.4.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of fresh fallen snow and winds which intermittently were blowing at strong-velocity, snowdrift accumulations have formed at high altitudes which are prone to triggering. These drifted masses, wherever they occur in the major areas of precipitation in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps, are large-sized. The bonding of the snowdrifts to the surface of the old snow cover beneath them is to begin with still unfavourable.

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, 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 Sunday, 17.4.2016

Skies were for the most part heavily overcast. There was precipitation which fell intermittently, and which in southern regions was continuing and heavy. The snowfall level was between 2000 and 2400 m. During the afternoon, the snowfall level in northern regions descended down to intermediate altitudes.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered above 2400 m:

- central sector of the Main Alpine Ridge and regions southwards therefrom: 20 to 40 cm; from region to region along the Main Alpine Ridge as much as 60 cm;
- furthest western part of Lower Valais, Simplon region, Main Alpine Ridge west of the Dent Blanche as well as from Avers into the Bernina region: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +2 °C, then receding in northern regions during the afternoon.

Wind

Winds were southerly to westerly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity, for brief spells intensifying to reach storm-force.

Weather forecast through Monday, 18.4.2016

In northern regions, skies will be heavily overcast for the most part. Precipitation is expected to fall intermittently. The snowfall level will descend to below 1500 m.

In southern regions, the intensive precipitation which will continue throughout Sunday night is expected to slacken off. During the daytime on Monday, it will be intermittently sunny, subsequently showers are possible during the afternoon. The snowfall level will be at approximately 2000 m.

Fresh snow

Between Sunday afternoon and Monday evening, in northern regions above 2000 m, in southern regions above 2400 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are anticipated:

- northern flank of the Alps, northern and central Grisons, Upper Engadine, as well as the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: 10 to 20 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -5 °C in northern regions and 0° C in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds will be southwesterly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity during the night.
- During the daytime, winds will be blowing from northerly directions at moderate strength for the most part, but during the afternoon intensifying to strong velocity in some places.

Outlook through Wednesday, 20.4.2016

On both days, it is expected to be quite sunny. During the afternoon of each day, convective cloud build-up is anticipated above the mountaintops. Temperatures are expected to increase noticeably.

The hazards of dry-snow avalanches are expected to decrease. The hazards of wet-snow avalanches will be subject to a daytime danger cycle. As a consequence of solar radiation and daytime warming, numerous moist and wet-snow avalanches can be expected.