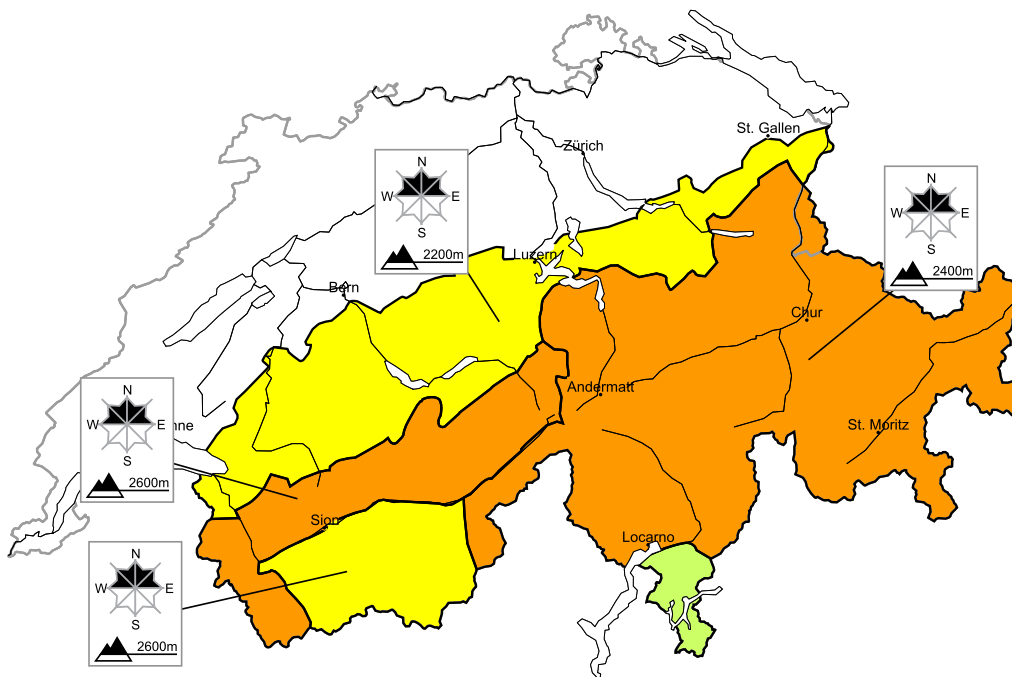


At elevated altitudes a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 18.4.2016, 17:00 / Next update: 19.4.2016, 17:00

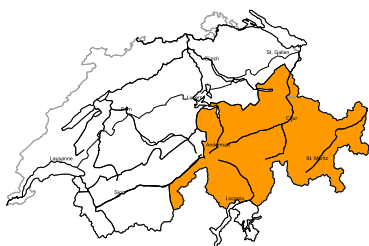
Avalanche danger

updated on 18.4.2016, 17:00



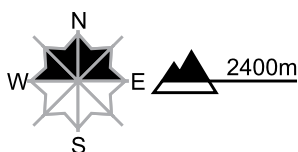
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

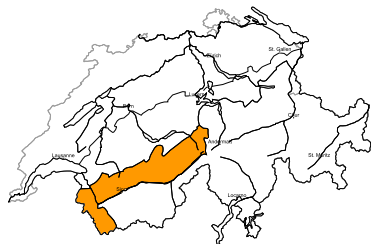
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last three days represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are present in all aspects. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation numerous wet avalanches are to be expected, including medium-sized ones. This applies in all aspects.

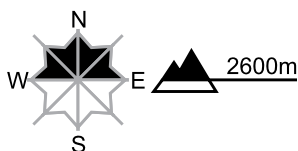
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

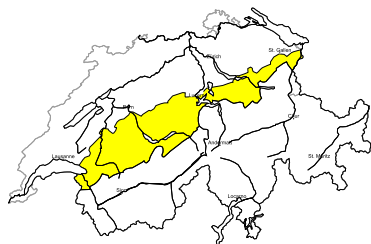
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last three days represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are present in all aspects. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation numerous full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, including medium-sized ones. This applies in all aspects.

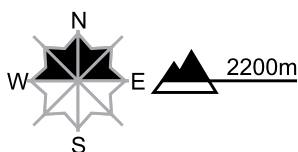
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

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

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more frequent mostly small wet avalanches are to be expected. This applies in all aspects.

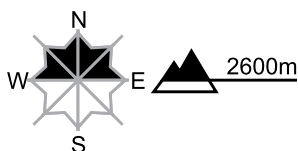
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The mostly small snow drift accumulations of the last few days represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. 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. In high Alpine regions the avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more frequent mostly small wet avalanches are to be expected. This applies in all aspects.

region E

Level 1, low



Wet avalanches

Isolated small wet avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on very steep north facing slopes. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



Snowpack and weather

updated on 18.4.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

At high altitudes and in the high Alpine regions the fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of Sunday and Monday have not bonded sufficiently well with the old snowpack. In some cases these layers can still be released easily by people. The bonding of the old snowpack is favourable over a wide area. Apart from the fresh snow and snow drift accumulations, the snowpack is moist all the way through below approximately 2500 m on north facing slopes and 3000 m on steep south facing slopes. In southern Upper Valais, northern Ticino, the inneralpine regions of Grisons, Engadine, and the Grisons southern valleys, near-ground layers of the snowpack on north facing slopes are faceted and, in some cases, weak. Here in particular, wet snow avalanches on north facing slopes can release the entire snowpack. As a consequence of significant warming and solar radiation, numerous snow slides and avalanches are to be expected in all regions.

Observed weather on Monday, 18.4.2016

On Sunday night precipitation fell over a wide area. The snowfall level fell to below 1500 m. During the day the weather was bright at times in the east and south, and mostly very cloudy in the west. In the afternoon further precipitation fell in some regions. The snowfall level was between 1400 m in the north and 1800 m in the south.

Fresh snow

In the period from Sunday afternoon until Monday afternoon, above 1800 m in the north and 2200 m in the south:

- Grisons: 20 to 40 cm, but up to 50 cm in some parts of northern Grisons
- Central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, extreme west of Lower Valais, Simplon region and central part of the southern flank of the Alps: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere: 5 to 10 cm

Since precipitation commenced on Saturday evening, 60 to 100 cm of snow has fallen above 2400 m in the regions south of the central part of the Alpine ridge.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -2 °C in the north and +2 °C in the south

Wind

Moderate southwesterly during the night, mostly light from various directions during the day

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 19.4.2016

The precipitation will cease during the night and the skies will clear from the west. In the morning the weather will remain cloudy in the north and east. Elsewhere it will be sunny.

Fresh snow

During the night at high altitudes, 5 to 15 cm over a wide area.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: +3 °C in the west and south, and 0 °C in the east

By the evening, the zero degree level in the west will rise to 3000 m.

Wind

At high altitudes and in the high Alpine regions, moderate but strong at times from the north to northeast

Outlook through Thursday, 21.4.2016

With mostly clear skies at night, each of the next two days will be sunny and very mild. The zero degree level will rise to above 3000 m. On Thursday afternoon high cloud will build up from the southwest but it will remain dry. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. The danger of wet snow and full-depth avalanches will vary during the day. Backcountry touring and ascents to refuges are to be concluded early in the day.