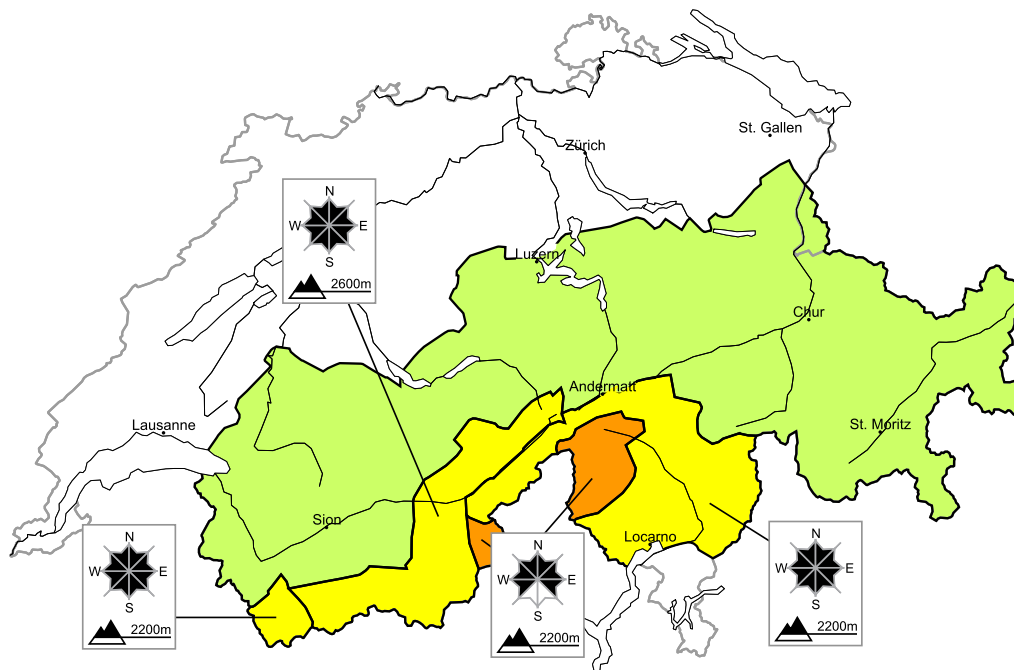


Fresh snow drifts require caution

Edition: 25.12.2016, 17:00 / Next update: 26.12.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 25.12.2016, 17:00



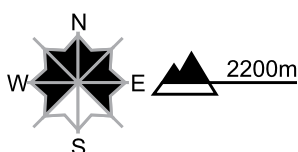
region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

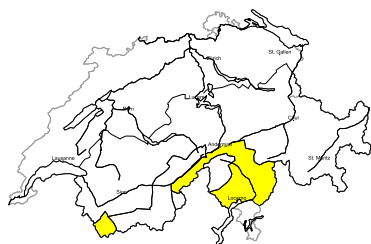


Danger description

On Christmas Day clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These represent the main danger. Avalanches can additionally be released in deeper layers especially on wind-protected shady slopes. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

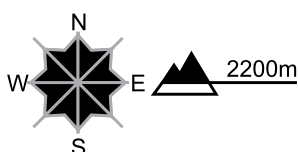
region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

On Christmas Day clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These are rather small but can in some cases be released easily. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in deeper layers on wind-protected shady slopes. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. Careful route selection is recommended.

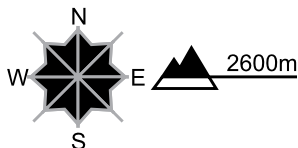
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

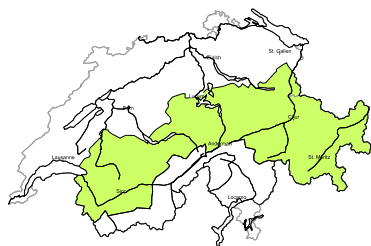


Danger description

On Christmas Day clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These are small but can in some cases be released easily. Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in deeper layers on wind-protected shady slopes. Careful route selection is recommended.

region D

Level 1, low



Snow drifts

In some localities small snow drift accumulations have formed. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

The Avalanche Warning Service currently has only a small amount of information that has been collected in the high Alpine regions, so that the avalanche danger should be investigated especially thoroughly in the relevant locality.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 25.12.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong-velocity winds over the weekend, snowdrift accumulations formed at high altitudes, more than anywhere else along the Main Alpine Ridge from Great St. Bernard as far as Lukmanier Pass as well as southwards therefrom. These drifts can be triggered even by one sole person. Furthermore, on shady, wind-protected slopes between approximately 2200 m and 3000 m in these regions, there is a weak layer at medium depth inside the snow cover from which avalanches can be triggered. Should such avalanches release, they can reach dangerous size, particularly in the southern Simplon region and in northwestern Ticino.

In the remaining regions of Switzerland, the generally shallow snowpack evidences a highly varied and irregular structure even within limited spaces: in some spots it has been utterly transformed to faceted-crystals and is loosely-packed; in other places, hardened older layers of snowdrift lie atop soft and weak layers deeper down. Fractures can be generated only in isolated cases in these weak layers.

Observed weather on Sunday, 25.12.2016

Skies were overcast during the night. Above 1400 m there was a small amount of intermittent snowfall. During the daytime in northern and in eastern regions, skies were heavily overcast in general; in the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps there was intermittent sunshine.

Fresh snow

1 to 5 cm of fresh fallen snow was registered over widespread areas; on the southern flank of the Alps it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +6 °C in southern regions; +4 °C in western regions; and +1°C in eastern regions.

Wind

Winds were northerly to northwesterly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity, intermittently reaching storm strength.

Weather forecast through Monday, 26.12.2016

Following an extremely mild night it will be sunny to begin with during the daytime, subsequently during the afternoon clouds will move in from the north. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, light snowfall will set in during the afternoon above 1500 m. In southern regions it will remain sunny.

Fresh snow

In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps: maximum 5 cm; in other regions of Switzerland it will generally remain dry.

Temperature

During the night of Christmas Day, the zero-degree level in western and in southern regions will be approximately 3000 m. By evening on 26 December, it will drop down to 2000 m in northern regions, down to 2600 m in southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be westerly to northerly, blowing at light to moderate strength; in high alpine regions blowing intermittently at strong velocity from the northwest.

Outlook through Wednesday, 28.12.2016

On Monday night in northeastern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. On Tuesday morning it will initially be overcast in those regions; in all the other regions of Switzerland it will be sunny on both days.

The avalanche hazards are expected to diminish in southern regions; in other regions the danger levels will not change significantly.