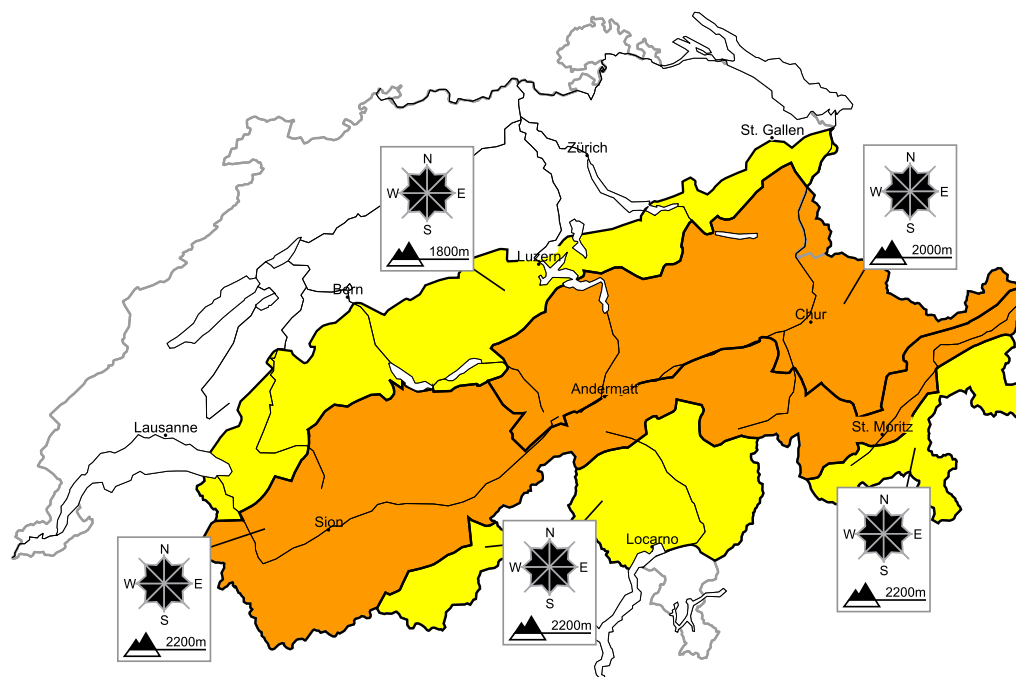


# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 6.1.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 6.1.2017, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 6.1.2017, 08:00



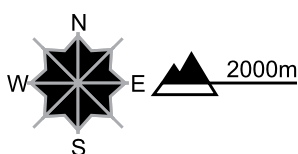
region A

Level 3, considerable



### Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

The large snow drift accumulations of the last two days can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach medium size. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be released in near-ground layers, especially on shady slopes above approximately 2200 m. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

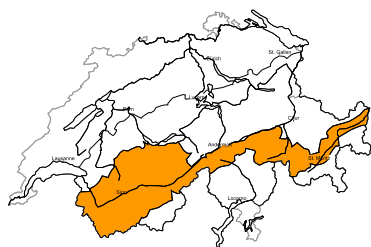
5 very high



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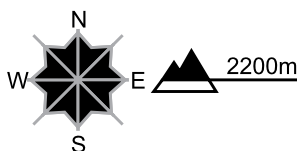
**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**

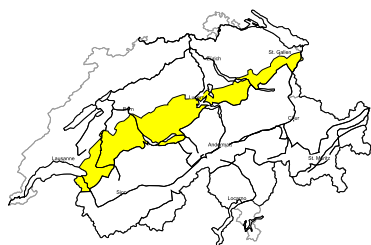


**Danger description**

The clearly visible snow drift accumulations of the last two days can be released by a single winter sport participant. In some places avalanches can also be released in near-ground layers, especially on shady slopes above approximately 2200 m. Here avalanches can in isolated cases reach medium size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

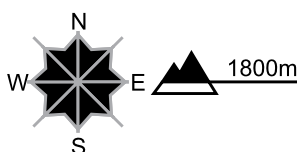
**region C**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind snow drift accumulations have formed. These are rather small but can be released easily. They are to be avoided in very steep terrain. Careful route selection is required.

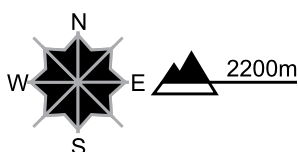
**region D**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind snow drift accumulations have formed. They are rather small but can be released easily. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack, especially on shady slopes above approximately 2200 m. 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.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 5.1.2017, 17:00

### Snowpack

As a result of fresh fallen snow and storm-strength winds, dangerous snowdrift accumulations have been forming ever since Wednesday. These drifted masses are large-sized in the major areas of precipitation on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons; in other regions of Switzerland they are predominantly small-to-medium sized. The new fallen and newly drifted snow has been deposited for the most part on shady slopes, in some places on top of faceted-crystal snowpack surfaces, where they can easily be triggered. On south-facing slopes, avalanches are possible from inside the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations more than anything else.

The old snowpack is thin over widespread areas, and highly erratically structured even over quite limited spaces: frequently there are several crusts embedded inside it, some of which are utterly transformed to faceted crystals and loosely-packed, others of which lie on top of hardened old layers of snowdrift atop softer layers. Avalanches can in isolated cases fracture from within the old snow cover.

### Observed weather on Thursday, 5.1.2017

During the night there was snowfall over widespread regions down to low-lying areas. During the daytime, skies were for the most part heavily overcast and in northern regions there was snowfall, whose center of concentration was the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons.

#### Fresh snow

Between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- northern Alpine Ridge from the Haslital as far as Liechtenstein, northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine: 20 to 40 cm; in the Glarner Alps as much as 50 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: 10 to 20 cm over widespread areas; in the borderline regions of the Valais and Bernese Oberland as much as 30 cm; on the southern flank of the Alps, less.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -12 °C.

#### Wind

Winds were blowing at storm-strength by and large, in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps blowing at moderate velocity, from northerly directions.

### Weather forecast through Friday, 6.1.2017

During the night, an additional round of snowfall down to low lying areas is anticipated, more towards eastern regions than anywhere else. During the morning in eastern regions, final residual cloud cover will persist, in other regions of Switzerland it will be predominantly sunny.

#### Fresh snow

By Friday morning, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are anticipated:

- central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, northern and central Grisons, Engadine: approximately 5 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: it will remain dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 in western regions, -9 °C; in eastern regions, -14 °C; and in southern regions, -10 °C.

#### Wind

Winds in southern regions and at high altitudes will be blowing at strong velocity, in high alpine regions at storm strength, from the north.

**Outlook** through Sunday, 8.1.2017

On Saturday morning in inneralpine and in southern regions, it will be partially sunny. In other regions of Switzerland, skies will be overcast but it is expected to remain dry. On Sunday in northern regions, snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. In southern regions skies will be partially overcast. At high altitudes, the northerly winds will continue to blow at strong velocity, intermittently at storm strength. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly and will remain critical from place to place for all backcountry skiers and freeriders.