Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 7 January 2017

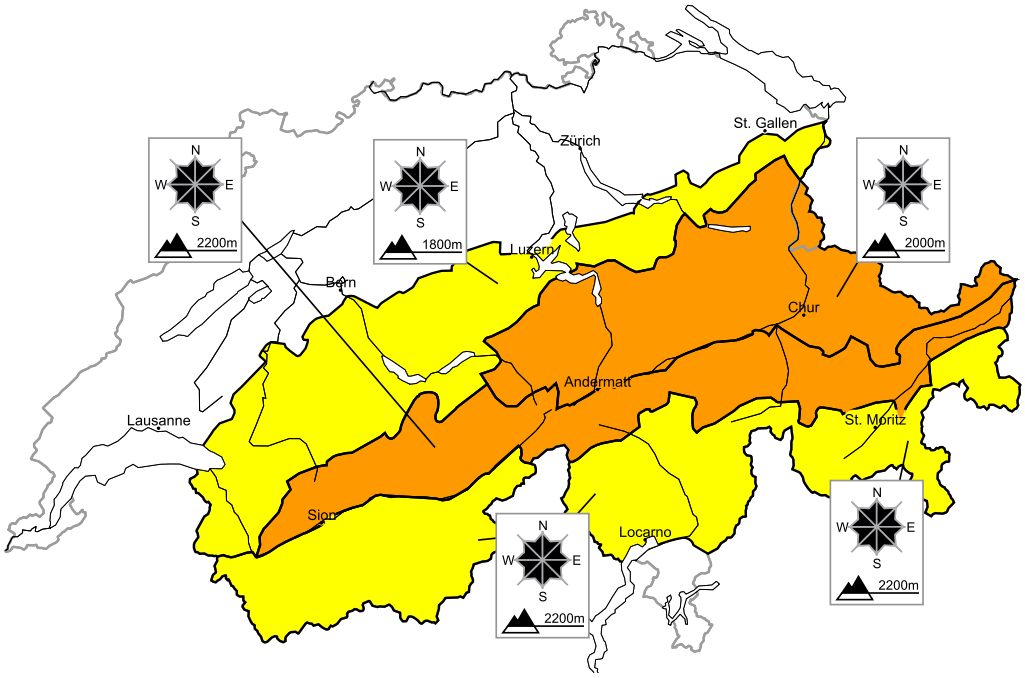
7.1.2017, 07:30

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 7.1.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 7.1.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

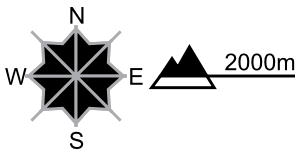
updated on 7.1.2017, 08:00



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 few days can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach medium size in isolated cases. In some places avalanches can also be released in near-ground layers, especially on shady slopes above approximately 2200 m. Whumpfing 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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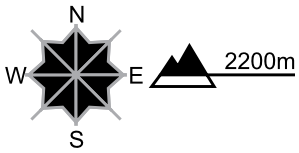
region B — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

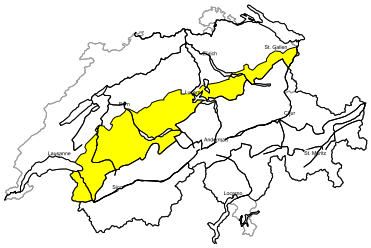
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

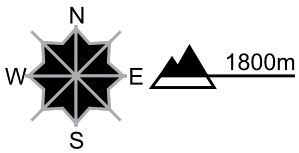
The clearly visible snow drift accumulations of the last two days can be released by a single winter sport participant. In some places avalanches can also be released in near-ground layers, especially on shady slopes above approximately 2200 m. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when 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, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



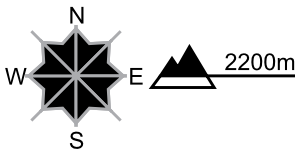
Danger description

The rather small snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence.
In some places avalanches can also be released in near-ground layers, especially on shady slopes above approximately 2200 m.
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. These are rather small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent.
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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 6.1.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

In the major areas of precipitation on the northern flank of the Alps and northern Grisons, large-sized snowdrift accumulations have formed this week, which elsewhere were generally small-to-medium sized. The fresh fallen and freshly drifted snow of this week has, on shady slopes above approximately 2200 m more than anywhere else, been deposited on top of partially loosely-packed, faceted-crystal snowpack surfaces and is easily triggered. On south-facing slopes, avalanche triggerings are most possible inside the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations.
The old snowpack is predominantly shallow, in some places utterly transformed to faceted snow crystals, in others riddled with melt-freeze crusts or hardened, older layers of snowdrifts. Avalanches can fracture in this old snowpack fundament.

Observed weather on Friday, 6.1.2017

On Wednesday night, the snowfall which extended down to low lying areas came to an end in eastern regions as well. In those regions there was still residual cloud in the early morning hours. In other regions of Switzerland it was sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday midday and Friday morning, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- northern Alpine Ridge from the Haslital as far as Liechtenstein, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 30 to 50 cm; in the Glarner Alps as much as 70 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, remaining parts of Gotthard region, central Grisons, Engadine north of the Inn: 15 to 30 cm widespread; in the borderline regions of Valais and the Bernese Oberland, as much as 40 cm from place to place;
- southern Valais, remaining parts of northern Ticino and remaining parts of Grisons: 5 to 15 cm; in the furthermost southern regions, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -10 °C in western and southern regions and -17 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

On the northern Alpine Ridge from Les Diablerets to the Tödi and on the Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon region into the Bernina region, frequently strong-velocity northerly winds, in other regions blowing generally at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 7.1.2017

On Saturday morning, cloud cover will swiftly intensify and become heavy from the north. In southern regions it will remain sunny for somewhat longer before clouds move in during the afternoon. It is expected to remain dry until evening in all regions.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 in western and in southern regions, -4 °C; and in eastern regions, -7 °C.

Wind

- Winds will be northerly, blowing at light strength at 2000 m in northern regions; at moderate strength on the southern flank of the Alps.
- In high alpine regions in all regions of Switzerland, northerly winds will be blowing at strong to storm-strength.

Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 7 January 2017

Outlook through Monday, 9.1.2017

Sunday

In northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is expected with the focal point in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps. In southern regions it will be partly sunny. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly. The hazards for skiers and freeriders in outlying terrain will remain critical from place to place.

Monday

It will be predominantly sunny. The avalanche danger will diminish only incrementally.