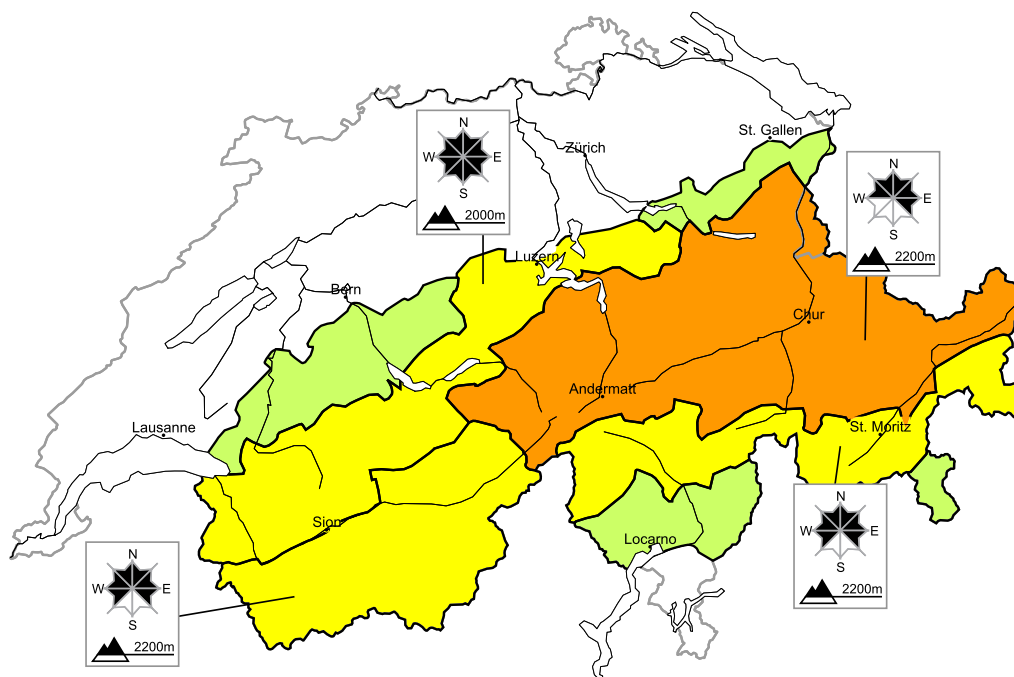


Weakly bonded old snow represents the main danger. Fresh snow drifts require caution

Edition: 11.1.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 11.1.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 11.1.2017, 08:00



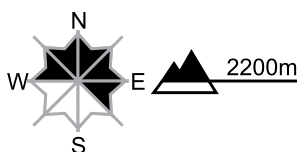
region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach medium size in isolated cases, especially in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons. 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.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

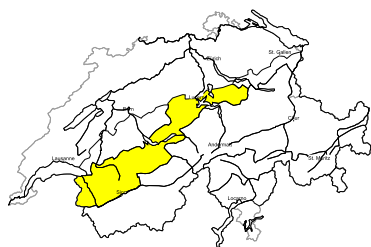
5 very high



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region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In some places avalanches can be released in near-ground layers, especially on shady slopes above approximately 2200 m. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain.

As a consequence of the strong wind snow drift accumulations will form. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses.

Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

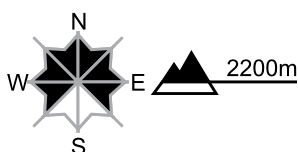
region C

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



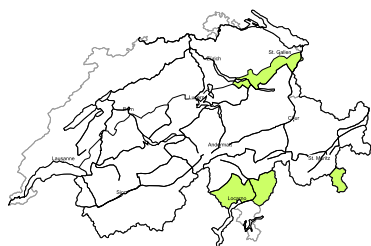
Danger description

In some places avalanches can be released in near-ground layers, especially on shady slopes above approximately 2200 m. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain.

In addition, rather small snow drift accumulations will form. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in terrain where there is a danger of falling. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

region D

Level 1, low

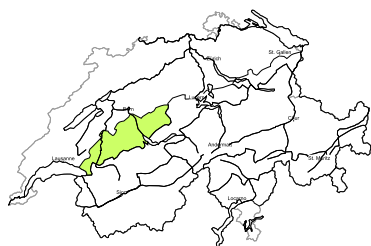


Old snow

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region E

Level 1, low



Snow drifts

As the day progresses snow drift accumulations will form. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in steep terrain. As the day progresses as a consequence of the strong wind there will be an increase in the avalanche danger to level 2 (moderate). 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 10.1.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

The amount of snow lying in the Swiss Alps remains well below the long-term average. Snow depth distribution is very irregular. The wind has transported the snow from most areas adjacent to ridgelines, and gullies and bowls are filled with snow. January's fresh snow and wind slab layers are lying on a mostly shallow old snowpack. On north facing slopes in particular, the old snowpack is sometimes completely faceted and loosely bonded, and sometimes interspersed with melt-freeze crusts or harder, old snow drift accumulations. Whumpfung sounds and cracks are occurring frequently at altitudes between 2200 and 2800 m in particular and can be an indication of such unfavourable bonding. At lower altitudes the old snow cover is mostly shallow and hard, and at higher altitudes even the old snowpack has been influenced by the wind and is less weak. Avalanches will be released mostly in near-ground layers of the snowpack.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 10.1.2017

In the morning, light snow began to fall from the west. Grisons remained bright until the early afternoon.

Fresh snow

In the period until Tuesday afternoon a few centimetres of snow fell on the northern flank of the Alps and in some regions of Valais.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -4 °C in the far west, -6 °C in the north and -9 °C in the south

Wind

Light to moderate from the west

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 11.1.2017

After a little snowfall in the night, the morning will be partly sunny. Cloud will build up from the northwest in the afternoon and fresh light snowfall will commence. In the far south it will remain mostly sunny.

Fresh snow

On the northern flank of the Alps in particular, the snowfall level will rise towards 1000 m. The following amounts of snow will fall by Wednesday evening:

- Central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps: 5 to 10 cm
- Western part of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais, northern and central Grisons: up to 5 cm
- Further south: smaller amounts

Temperature

Increasing during the day to reach between -6 °C in the north and -4 °C in the south at midday at 2000 m

Wind

Freshening as the day progresses, reaching strong to storm force in the afternoon, from the west to northwest

Outlook through Friday, 13.1.2017

Thursday

Changeable on Thursday with light snowfall in the second half of the day. The strong to storm force westerly to northwesterly wind will persist. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.

Friday

Friday will be very cloudy with frequent snowfall, in particular in western Lower Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps. The westerly wind will remain strong to storm force. The weather will become much colder. The avalanche danger will increase over a wide area.