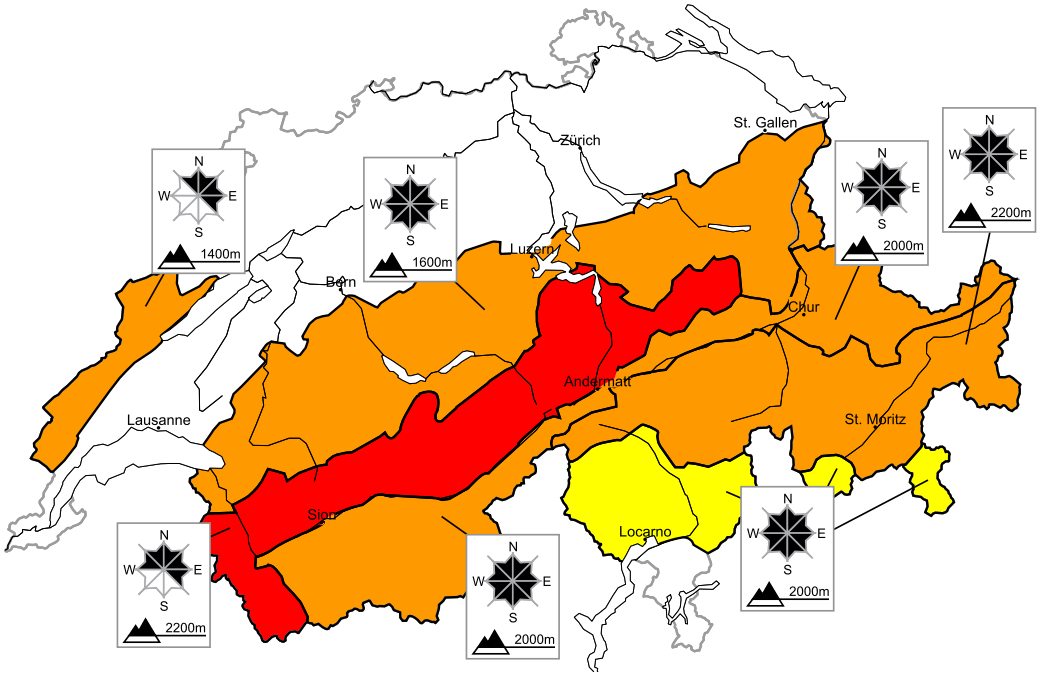
# High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

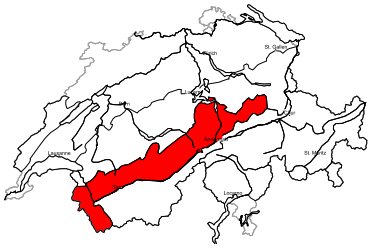
Edition: 14.1.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 14.1.2017, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 14.1.2017, 08:00

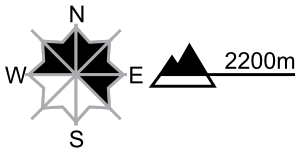



## region A — Level 4, high



### Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

Significant increase in avalanche danger at elevated altitudes.
Extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. Additionally avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. This applies especially on north facing slopes. Natural avalanches are to be expected, including medium-sized ones. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases at high altitude. Slides can occur on cut slopes, also at intermediate altitudes.
Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for great caution and restraint.



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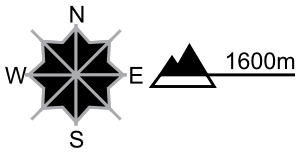
## region B — Level 3, considerable

### Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

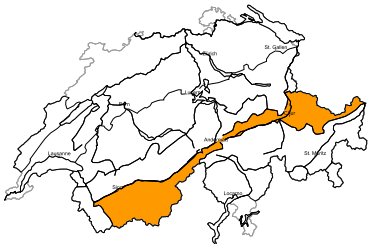
**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

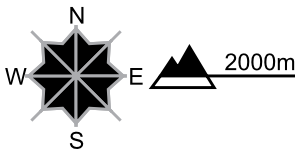
As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind precarious snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released easily, even by a single winter sport participant,. Additionally in some places avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. This applies especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. As the day progresses more frequent natural avalanches are possible, including medium-sized ones. Slides can occur on cut slopes, also at intermediate altitudes.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

## region C — Level 3, considerable



### Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**



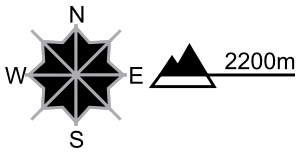

**Danger description**

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. Additionally avalanches can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Remote triggering is possible. Individual natural avalanches are possible.
Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

## region D — Level 3, considerable

### Snow drifts, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. Additionally avalanches can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach medium size in isolated cases. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches.
Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.



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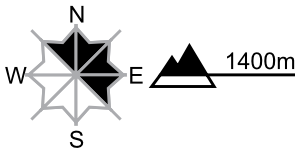
## region E — Level 3, considerable

### Fresh snow and snow drifts

**Avalanche prone locations**



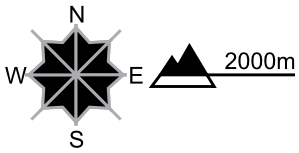

**Danger description**

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind snow drift accumulations have formed. They are to be avoided especially in steep terrain. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases.
Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

## region F — Level 2, moderate

### Snow drifts, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

As a consequence of the strong wind snow drift accumulations will form. These are only small but can be released easily.
Additionally 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.
Careful route selection and spacing between individuals are recommended.



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# Snowpack and weather

updated on 13.1.2017, 17:00

## Snowpack

As a result of fresh fallen snow and strong to storm-strength westerly winds, fresh snowdrift accumulations formed over wide ranging areas on Friday which are very easily triggered. These drifted masses will continue to grow in number and size and spread geographically on Saturday. The new fallen and newly drifted snow will for the most part be deposited on top of a shallow old snowpack which, particularly on shady slopes between 2200 and 2800 m altitude, is completely transformed to faceted-crystal, loosely-packed snow in some places, in others has melt-freeze crusts or is riddled with older, hardened layers of snowdrift. An avalanche can fracture in the layers of the snow cover which are nearest to the ground and subsequently sweep along the entire, generally shallow snowpack with it. At intermediate altitudes, the old snow is for the most part shallow and hardened; at higher altitudes even the old snowpack has been subjected to heavy wind influence and is, thus, less weakened.
In the Simplon region and in Ticino, the snowpack is structured more favourably.

## Observed weather on Friday, 13.1.2017

Skies were heavily overcast, accompanied by snowfall. The snowfall level in northern and western regions on Thursday evening was 1400 to 1800 m. In southern regions, and during the daytime in northern regions, there was snowfall down to low lying areas. In the furthermost southern regions, skies cleared up during the daytime.

### Fresh snow

Above approximately 1800 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered between Thursday afternoon and Friday evening:

- in the northern and furthermmost western parts of the Lower Valais, as well as in the Glarner Alps: 30 to 50 cm;
- northern flank of the Alps not including the region of Lauterbrunnen to Grindelwald and not including the Glarner Alps, together with the remaining parts of the Valais not including the valleys of Visp or the southern Simplon region: 20 to 40 cm;
- the Lauterbrunnen to Grindelwald region, valleys of Visp and southern Simplon region, northern Grisons, northwestern Ticino: 10 to 20 cm
- remaining regions of the Swiss Alps together with the Jura region above approximately 1200 m: 5 to 15 cm.

### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -11 °C.

### Wind

Winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity, intermittently blowing at storm strength, from the west-to-northwest.

## Weather forecast through Saturday, 14.1.2017

North of the Main Alpine Ridge, skies will be heavily overcast. There will be snowfall down to low lying areas which will be intensive on the northern flank of the Alps during the night and on Saturday morning. In southern regions skies will be bright and it will by and large remain dry.

### Fresh snow

between Friday afternoon and Saturday midday:

- regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line: 30 to 50 cm; from the western part of the Bernese Oberland into the Glarner Alps: as much as 60 cm;
- southern part of the Valais not including valleys of Visp and not including the Simplon region, northern Grisons, Silvretta and Samnaun: 20 to 40 cm;
- Jura: 15 to 30 cm;
- valleys of Visp, Simplon region, central Grisons, Engadine, northern Ticino: 10 to 20 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, less; or else it will remain dry.

### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -12 °C.

### Wind

Winds at high altitude will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from the northwest.

# Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 14 January 2017



## **Outlook** through Monday, 16.1.2017

On Saturday night and on Sunday morning in northern regions, the final thrust of snowfall will round to a close. In the Valais it will be intermittently sunny on Sunday. On Monday in northern regions, skies will for the most part be heavily overcast, accompanied by snow showers. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be quite sunny on both days. It will remain cold.
For backcountry skiing and freeriding in outlying terrain away from the secured ski runs, the avalanche situation is highly treacherous over widespread areas. In southern regions, the avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.