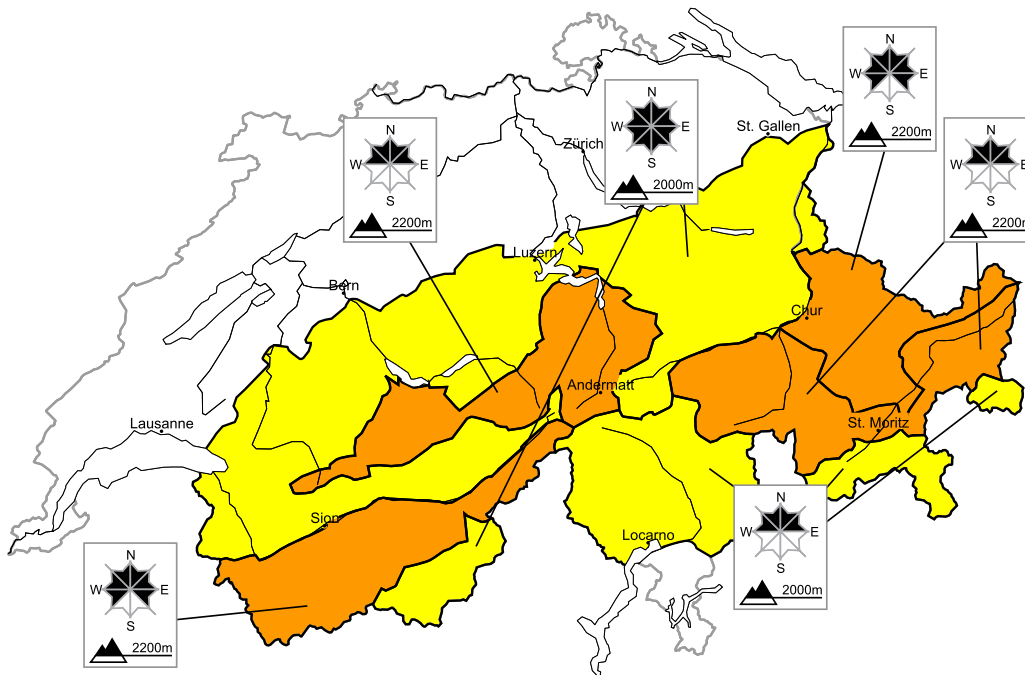


# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 21.1.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 21.1.2017, 17:00

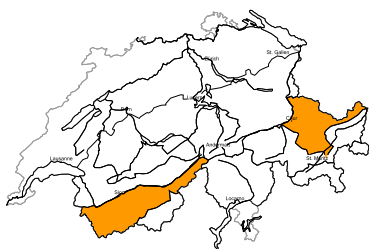
## Avalanche danger

updated on 21.1.2017, 08:00



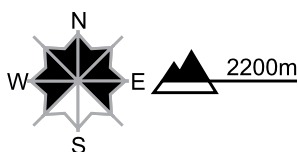
### region A

### Level 3, considerable



#### Old snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



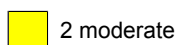
#### Danger description

Distinct weak layers in the old snowpack necessitate caution. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. In particular on steep shady slopes they can reach dangerously large size. Remote triggering is possible. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. 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 and caution.

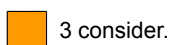
#### Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

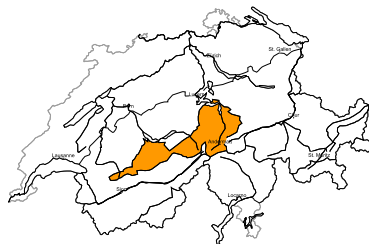


5 very high



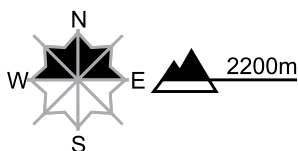
region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. They are mostly small.

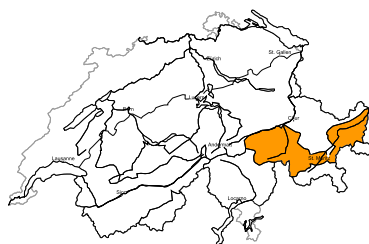
Faceted weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can in some cases be triggered in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but barely recognisable. Caution is to be exercised in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected, but they will be mostly small.

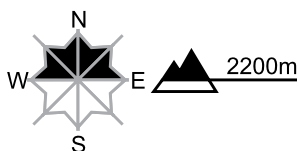
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations

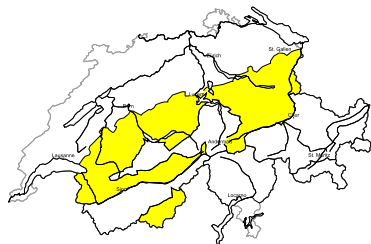


Danger description

Distinct weak layers in the old snowpack necessitate caution. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Mostly these are small. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. 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 D

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular on shady slopes. They can in isolated cases reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but barely recognisable. Caution is to be exercised in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Careful route selection and spacing between individuals are recommended.

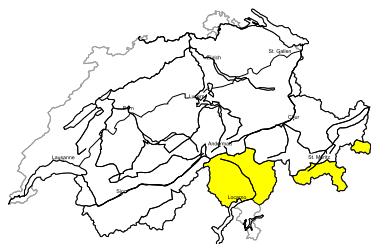
The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.

Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected, but they will be mostly small.

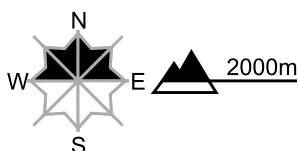
region E

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in some places be released, mostly by large loads. Caution is to be exercised in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. In isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers. This applies in particular on north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. Careful route selection is recommended.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 20.1.2017, 17:00

### Snowpack

As a result of southerly winds, predominantly small-sized snowdrift accumulations which are prone-to-triggering have formed on the northern Alpine Ridge, more than anywhere else in the regions from Chablais into the Schächental. In addition, the old snow cover in numerous regions evidences weak layers. These likely-to-trigger snow layers are most prevalent on shady slopes between 2000 and 2800m as well as in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons. In the regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line where snowfall has been heaviest, these weak layers are frequently blanketed by thick newer layers of snow, making them triggerable only in isolated cases. This applies in particular to areas where the snowpack is shallower. In the southern Valais and in Grisons, the weak layers are found closer to the uppermost surface, which makes the triggering of avalanches more likely. In these regions over the last few days, even remote triggerings over greater distances have been reported. In northern Ticino the snow structuring is more favourable. In Sotto Ceneri and in the southern valleys of Grisons, there is very little snow.

### Observed weather on Friday, 20.1.2017

It was sunny in the mountains.

#### Fresh snow

-

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions.

#### Wind

Winds were blowing at light to moderate strength from the southeast, on the northern Alpine Ridge from Chablais into the Schächental intermittently at strong velocity.

### Weather forecast through Saturday, 21.1.2017

It is expected to be sunny, accompanied by outstanding visibility.

#### Fresh snow

-

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions.

#### Wind

Winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength from the southeast.

### Outlook through Monday, 23.1.2017

On both days it will be sunny by and large, accompanied by high altitude cloudbanks. On Sunday, particularly in the southern Valais, it will become increasingly overcast during the course of the day. As a result of southerly winds some loosely-packed old snow could well be transported.

Avalanche danger is expected to decrease incrementally over widespread areas. In the southern Valais and in Grisons the avalanche situation is not expected to change significantly, due to the poor snowpack structuring. The scenario, particularly in less frequented outlying terrain, will remain treacherous.