Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 26 January 2017

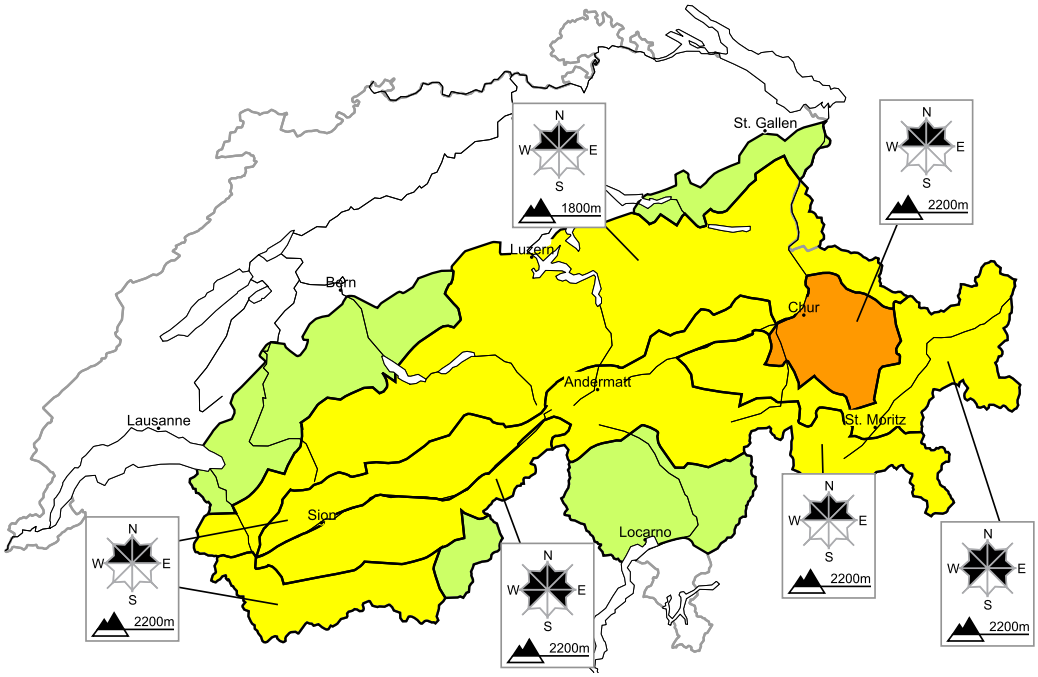
26.1.2017, 07:37

In Grisons a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 26.1.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 26.1.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

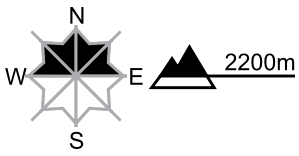
updated on 26.1.2017, 08:00



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. This applies especially in little used backcountry terrain. Avalanches can reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. 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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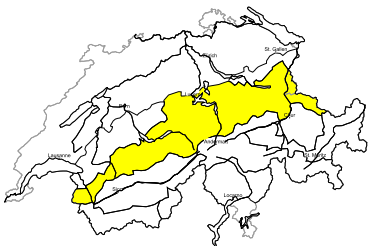
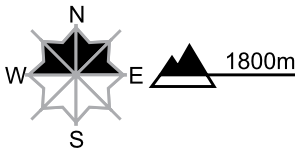
region B — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

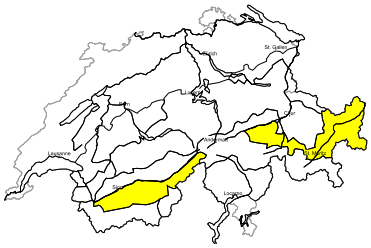
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

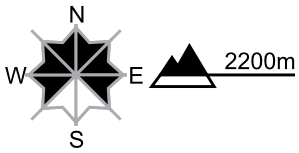
As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations will form. These are small but can be released easily.
Avalanches can in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow, especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2000 m. These avalanche prone locations 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.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

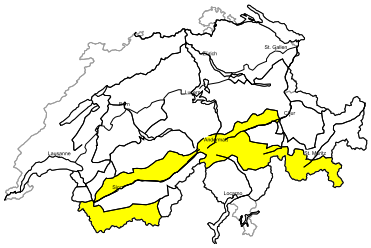
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

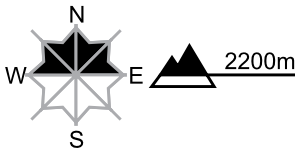
Avalanches can in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow by people. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but barely recognisable. Caution is to be exercised at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Careful route selection and spacing between individuals are recommended.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in some places be released, mostly by large loads. These can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers, in particular on north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. 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 some localities easily released snow drift accumulations will form.
Careful route selection is recommended.

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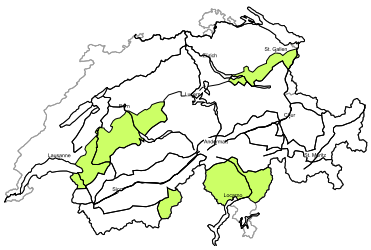
region E

Level 1, low



Old snow, snow drifts

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on extremely steep shady slopes and in gullies and bowls. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.
In high Alpine regions small snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be avoided. Here the danger is higher.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 25.1.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of southerly winds blowing at strong velocity in some places, additional snowdrift accumulations which were predominantly small-sized have formed in areas adjacent to ridgelines and pass areas more than anywhere else. These snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered.
In many places, the snow cover harbors weakened layers deeply embedded inside it. These are most threatening on shady slopes between approximately 2000 and 2800 m. In the regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line where recent snowfall has been heaviest, the weak layers have frequently been blanketed over by deep new layers, thus making them trigger-sensitive only in isolated cases. This is particularly the case in places where the snow is relatively shallow. However, in the southern Valais and in Grisons, the weakened layers occur nearer to the uppermost surface, which makes it more likely that avalanches will trigger.
In northern Ticino the snowpack structure is layered more favourably. In central Ticino and in Sotto Ceneri, as well as in the southern valleys of Grisons, there is only a small amount of snow on the ground.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 25.1.2017

It was sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in northern and eastern regions, and -3 °C in the Valais an in southern regions.

Wind

Winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity, in the other regions of Switzerland at light to moderate strength, from east to southeast.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 26.1.2017

It is expected to be sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in northern regions, 0 °C; and in southern regions, -4 °C.

Wind

Southerly to southeasterly winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength, intermittently at high velocity in the foehn-exposed regions of the north and during the afternoon at high altitudes.

Outlook through Saturday, 28.1.2017

On Friday in northern regions, foehn conditions bringing sunshine are anticipated; in southern regions, there will be increasingly overcast skies but it is expected to remain dry. On Saturday, skies will be overcast in southern regions, accompanied by a small amount of snowfall. In northern regions it will be quite sunny and it will remain dry.
Avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.