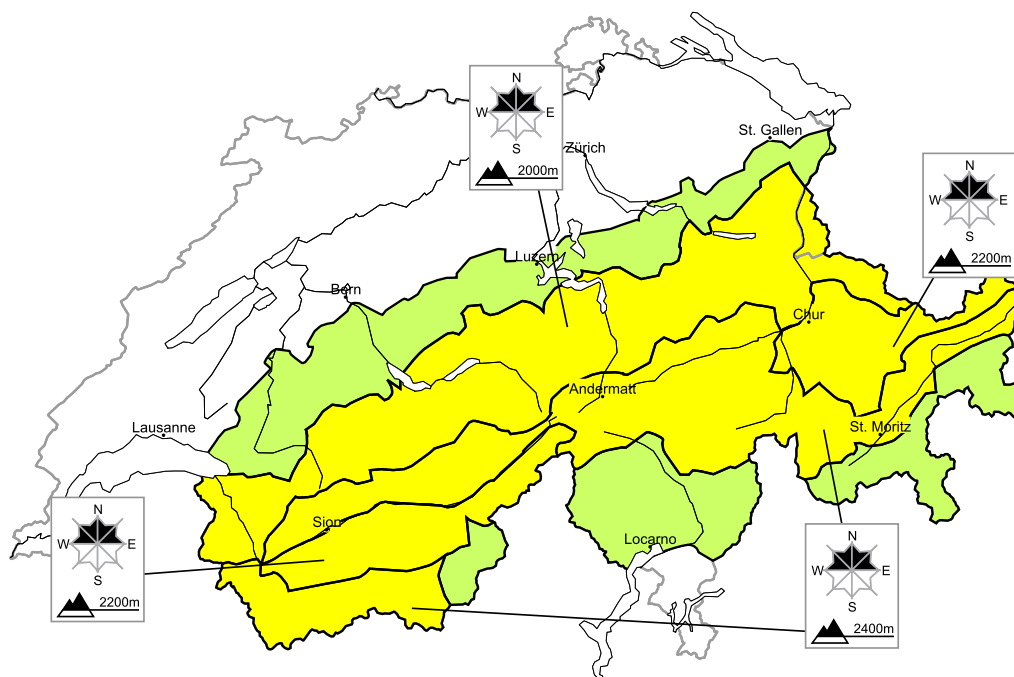


Weakly bonded old snow in the inneralpine regions of both Valais and Grisons

Edition: 28.1.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 28.1.2017, 17:00

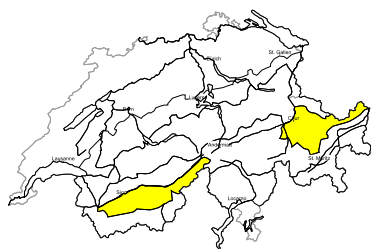
Avalanche danger

updated on 28.1.2017, 08:00



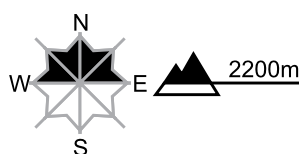
region A

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Distinct weak layers in the old snowpack can be released by a single winter sport participant. This applies especially in little used backcountry terrain. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Avalanches can in isolated cases reach dangerously large size. In addition, clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These are small but in some cases prone to triggering. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection. Steep shady slopes are to be traversed by snow sport participants one at a time.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

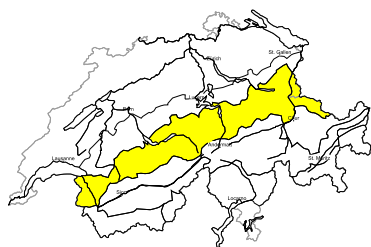
5 very high



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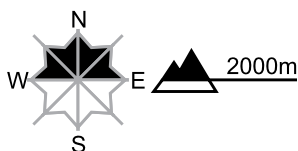
region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

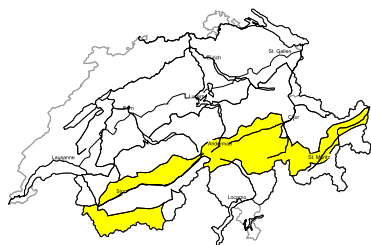


Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These are small but in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow, especially on north facing slopes. These avalanche prone locations are 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.

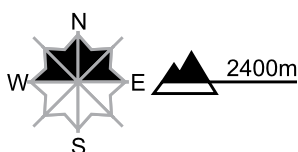
region C

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

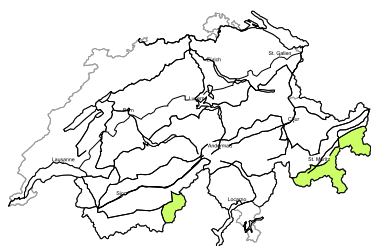


Danger description

Avalanches can in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow by people. These avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised at transitions into gullies and bowls. In addition, clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These are small but in some cases prone to triggering. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region D

Level 1, low

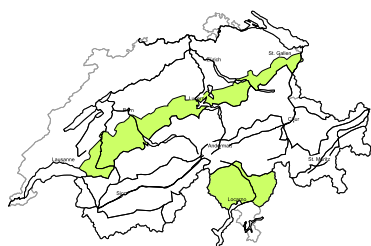


Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanches can in very isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow by people. This applies in particular on north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. At high altitudes and in high Alpine regions clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These are only small. 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.

region E

Level 1, low



Snow drifts

As a consequence of the southerly wind small snow drift accumulations have formed. These are clearly recognisable. The 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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 27.1.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of southerly winds on Friday, small-sized snowdrift accumulations formed anew in areas adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas of the north more than anywhere else. These drifted masses are still prone to triggering in some places, but they are easy to recognize.

On shady slopes between altitudes of 2000 and 2800 m, the snow cover contains markedly weak layers. In the regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line where snowfall has been heaviest, these snowdrift accumulations are frequently blanketed over by thick layers, thereby making avalanches unlikely to trigger except in isolated cases. This applies particularly to spots where the snow is relatively shallow and to transition zones from shallow to deep snow. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, the weakened layers are found much closer to the uppermost surface, which makes avalanches more likely to trigger.

In the remaining regions of Switzerland the snowpack structure is layered more favourably. In central Ticino and in Sotto Ceneri, as well as in southern Grisons, there is very little snow on the ground.

Observed weather on Friday, 27.1.2017

In eastern regions it was quite sunny, thanks to foehn winds. In western and southern regions, skies were variably cloudy.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +3 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds were blowing from southerly directions:

- on the northern Alpine Ridge, and intermittently also on the Main Alpine Ridge, at moderate to strong velocity; in the Alpine valleys there was foehn;
- in other regions of Switzerland, at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 28.1.2017

In northern regions it will be partly sunny above the high fogbanks extending to an upper borderline at 800 m, particularly in the eastern parts. In southern regions skies will be heavily overcast for the most part, and there could be a small amount of snowfall during the morning from place to place.

Fresh snow

Valais part of Main Alpine Ridge, northwestern Ticino: only a few centimeters of snowfall are possible.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -1 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds in northern regions will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from southerly directions. There will be foehn in the Alpine valleys which will slacken off significantly in the afternoon.
- In southern regions, light to moderate southwesterly winds will prevail at high altitude.

Outlook through Monday, 30.1.2017

On Sunday in the mountains, it will be quite sunny, accompanied by light winds.

On Monday, clouds will move in from the northwest and during the course of the day in northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. In southern regions, skies will be variably cloudy, but it is expected to remain dry.

The avalanche danger is expected to diminish on both days. However, only very slowly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons as a result of the weakened old snow.