Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 1 February 2017

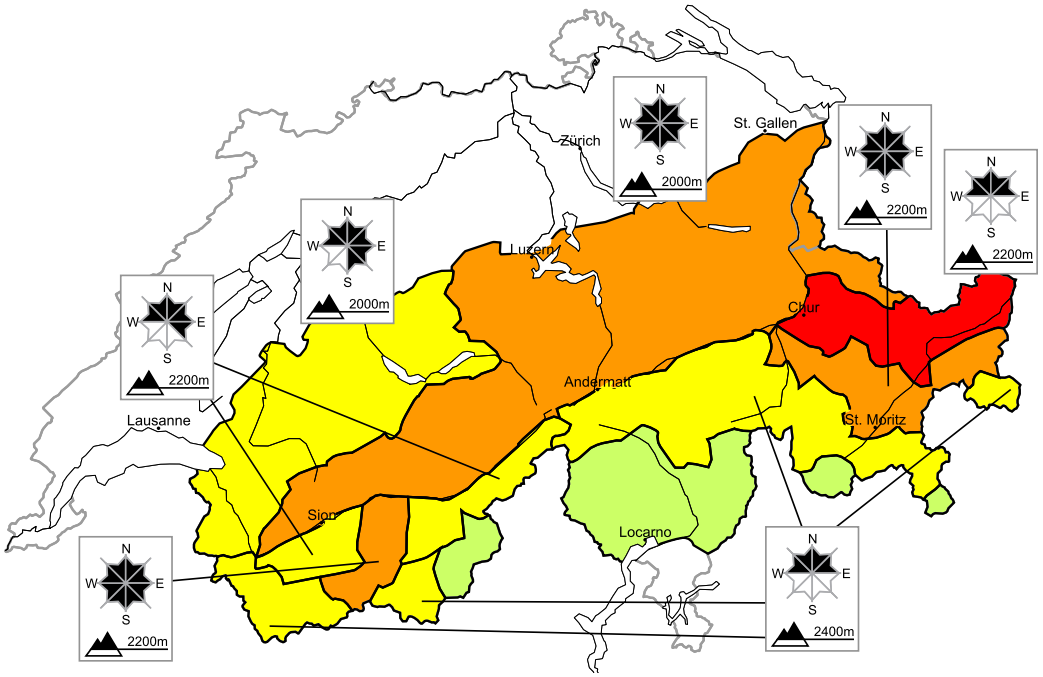
1.2.2017, 08:11

High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Weakly bonded old snow in the inneralpine regions

Edition: 1.2.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 1.2.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

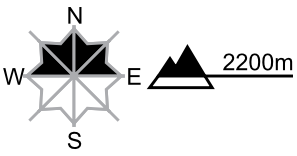
updated on 1.2.2017, 08:00



region A — Level 4, high

Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

For those venturing off piste a very critical avalanche situation will prevail. Fresh snow is lying on a weakly bonded old snowpack. In particular on steep north facing slopes small to medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. Avalanches can in many places be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Remote triggering is to be expected. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 consider. 4 high 5 very high

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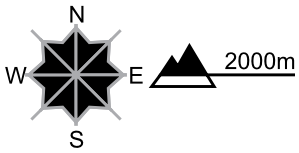
region B — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last two days are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. Natural avalanches are possible, in particular in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in Prättigau. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint.

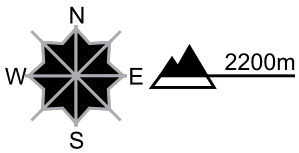
Wet avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last two days are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Remote triggering is possible in isolated cases. Avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on steep shady slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint.

Wet avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

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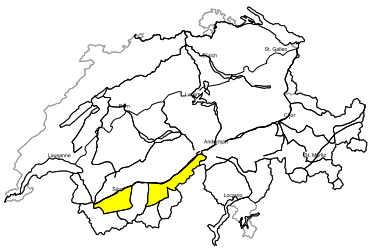
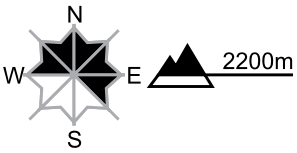
region D — Level 2, moderate



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 in some places. This applies especially in little used backcountry terrain. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection. Steep shady slopes are to be traversed by snow sport participants one at a time.
The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.

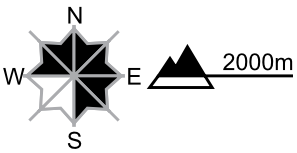
Wet avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m moist snow slides and avalanches are possible.

region E — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.
Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular on north facing slopes. Caution is to be exercised in particular 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.

Wet avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected, especially on very steep south facing slopes.

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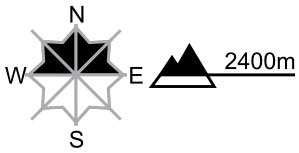
region F — Level 2, moderate

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

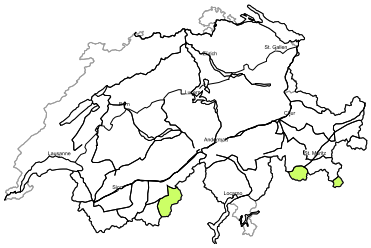
Avalanches can in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow by people. Mostly the avalanches are rather small. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised in particular at transitions into gullies and bowls.
The mostly small snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. They are to be bypassed in steep terrain.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for meticulous route selection.

Wet avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m moist snow slides are possible.

region G — Level 1, low



Old snow

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. Mostly the avalanches 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 H — Level 1, low

Favourable situation

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

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 31.1.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

Fresh snow is being deposited on a surface that has been significantly influenced by the wind in many places. In areas that are protected from the wind, in particular in north facing aspects, snow has been deposited on a sometimes thick layer of surface hoar and loosely bonded snow. In these conditions the outlook is unfavourable. A melt-freeze crust existed on steep sunny slopes.
On the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais below approximately 2000 m, and elsewhere below 1200 to 1600 m, the surface of the old snowpack became wet; in the regions where the precipitation has been heavy, the old snowpack became wet all the way through.
On north facing slopes between 2000 m and 2800 m distinct weak layers exist in the snowpack, in particular at its base. These can still release avalanches, in particular in the inneralpine regions of both Valais and Grisons. Releases are most likely in areas with a rather shallow snowpack and at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Only a little snow is to be found in central and southern Ticino and in southern Grisons.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 31.1.2017

On Tuesday the weather was overcast with frequent snowfall.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level was mostly around 1800 m on the northern flank of the Alps and approximately 2200 m at times in the far west. In the other regions the snowfall level was lower. The following amounts of snow fell in the period to Tuesday afternoon:

- Central part of the northern flank of the Alps: 20 to 30 cm
- Rest of the northern flank of the Alps except for the western Prealps, and in the Gotthard region, central Valais and northern Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere: less than 10 cm, dry in the far south

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between +1 °C in the west and -3 °C in the south

Wind

On the northern flank of the Alps frequently moderate and locally strong, otherwise light to moderate, from the west

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 1.2.2017

During Tuesday night the skies will remain mostly very cloudy. Precipitation will fall in particular on the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein and in Grisons. During the day the weather will clear in the high Alpine regions and from the west. At the same time cloud will build up again in the south.

Fresh snow

By the time the precipitation ceases the snowfall level will have risen to approximately 1800 m in the east; in the west it will reach approximately 2200 m for a time. The following amounts of snow will fall in the period until Wednesday morning:

- Northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein, and in northern Grisons: 20 to 40 cm
- Other regions: mostly less than 10 cm
- The far south will remain dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: from +3 °C in the west to 0 °C in the east and -2 °C in the south

Wind

During the day for a while only light to moderate from the west

Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 1 February 2017

Outlook through Friday, 3.2.2017

On each of the next two days the southern flank of the Alps will be overcast and snow will fall even in the valley bottoms in some cases. The precipitation will be heavier on Friday than on Thursday. The wind will be mostly strong to storm force from the southwest. Under the influence of a foehn wind the other regions will be sunny at times on Thursday and changeable with precipitation on Friday. In the north the storm force foehn wind will give rise to easily released snow drift accumulations. In the south the avalanche danger will increase a little on Thursday as a consequence of the precipitation; it will then increase significantly on Friday.