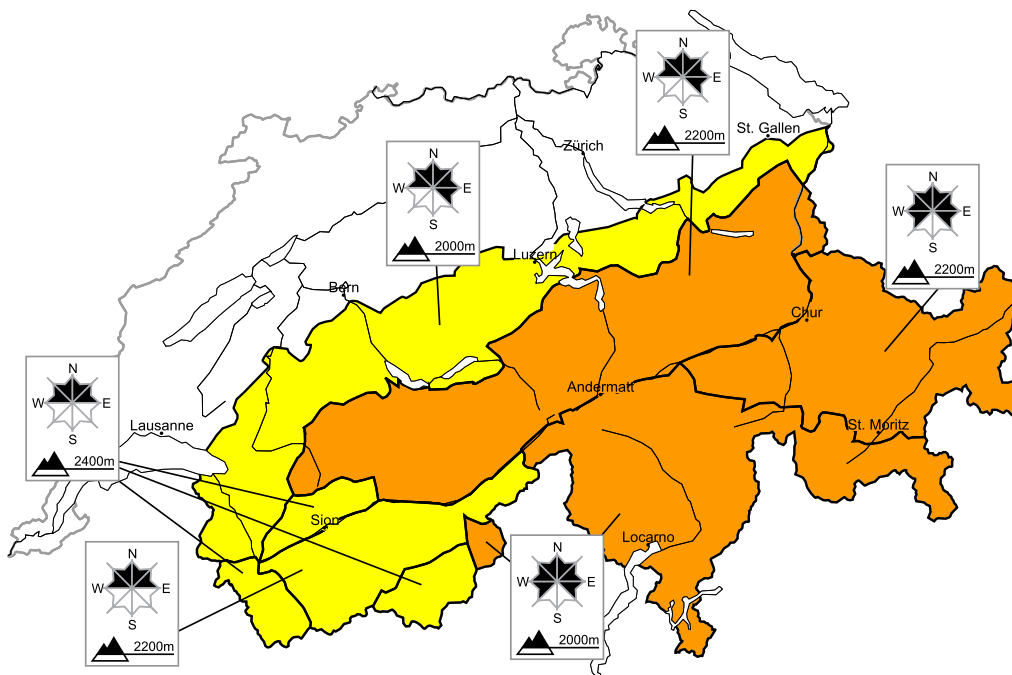


# A precarious avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 3.2.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 3.2.2017, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 3.2.2017, 08:00



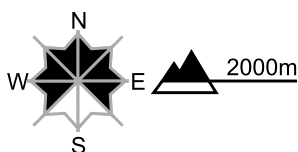
region A

Level 3, considerable



### Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind there will be an increase in the avalanche danger. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack in particular on west to north to east facing aspects. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

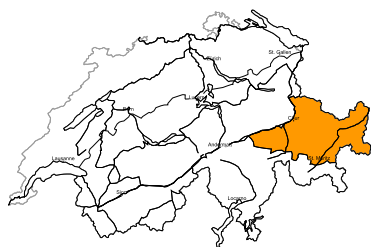
5 very high



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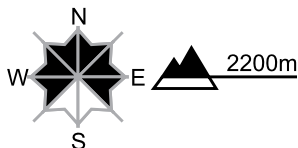
**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Weak layers in the old snowpack necessitate caution. As a consequence of the southwesterly wind sometimes large snow drift accumulations have formed. This applies in particular at elevated altitudes. The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. These can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

Below approximately 2000 m individual full-depth avalanches and wet snow slides are possible.

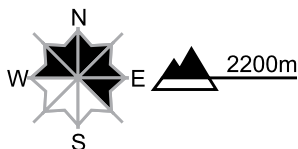
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

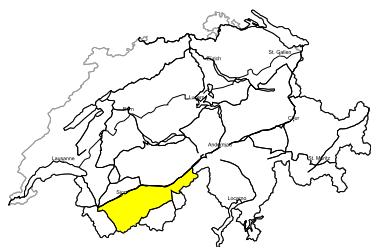
As a consequence of the southwesterly wind sometimes large snow drift accumulations have formed. This applies in particular at elevated altitudes. The snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. In particular on steep north facing slopes the avalanches can penetrate even deep layers and reach a dangerous size. This applies in particular in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

Below approximately 2000 m full-depth avalanches and wet snow slides are possible.

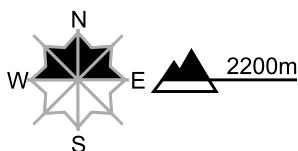
**region D**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Old snow, snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



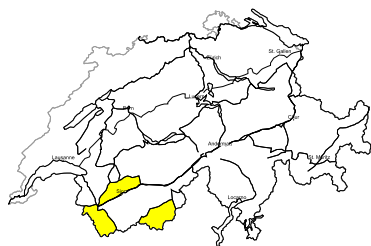
**Danger description**

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. 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. At elevated altitudes the snow drift accumulations are larger. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.

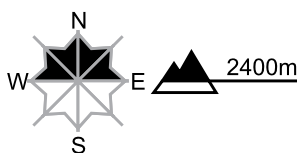
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**

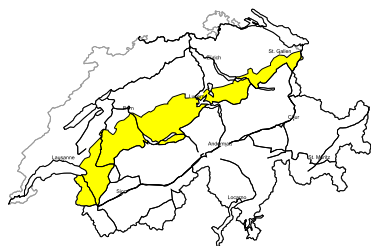


**Danger description**

As a consequence of the southwesterly wind snow drift accumulations have formed. This applies in particular at elevated altitudes. The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. In particular on steep north facing slopes the avalanches can penetrate even deep layers. Caution is to be exercised in particular at transitions into gullies and bowls. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for meticulous route selection.

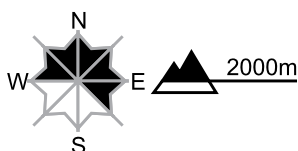
**region F**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Above the tree line clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

Below approximately 2000 m individual full-depth avalanches and wet snow slides are possible.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 2.2.2017, 17:00

### Snowpack

In southern regions, the fresh fallen snow is frequently being deposited on top of a highly wind-impacted snow cover. Particularly on shady, wind-protected slopes the new fallen and newly drifted snow masses are being deposited on top of an unfavourable old snowpack. In some places of northern Ticino, the surface hoar was blanketed by the fresh fallen snow of the last few days. In central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, as well as in southern Grisons, there has thus far been only very little snow on the ground at intermediate altitudes and the snow cover was frequently not cohesive area-wide. In northern regions the southwesterly and foehn winds transported the loosely-packed old snow at high altitudes. Below 2200 m in western regions and below approximately 2000 m in the remaining regions of Switzerland the snow cover was already wet or, at very least, superficially moist, thus hindering the snow from being transported. More deeply embedded inside the snowpack, on shady, wind-protected slopes between approximately 2200 and 2800 m more than anywhere else, there are weakened layers lurking in the old snowpack. These weak layers are most likely to trigger in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons.

### Observed weather on Thursday, 2.2.2017

On the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais it became partly sunny as a result of the increasingly strong foehn wind. In southern regions and in Grisons, skies were heavily overcast for the most part. On the southern flank of the Alps there was a small amount of snowfall.

#### Fresh snow

In southern regions there was a few centimeters of fresh fallen snow registered, the snowfall level was at approximately 1300m.

#### Temperature

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

#### Wind

- The southerly foehn winds intensified in strength, were blowing at strong velocity during the afternoon.
- At high altitudes, a moderate to strong velocity southerly wind was blowing.

### Weather forecast through Friday, 3.2.2017

In northern regions, the foehn wind is expected to come to an end during the course of the night. In the early morning hours a cold front will traverse the northern flank of the Alps in an easterly direction, bringing some snowfall in its wake. Behind that front, bright intervals are expected to become increasingly evident from the west. In southern regions skies will be heavily overcast and snowfall is anticipated which will persist until midday.

#### Fresh snow

In northern regions the snowfall level will descend from 1500 m down to approximately 1000 m; in southern regions, from approximately 1300 m down to approximately 600 m temporarily. Between Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are expected:

- southern Simplon region, together with the Main Alpine Ridge from the Nufen Pass to the Bernina Pass and southwards therefrom: 20 to 40 cm; from Lukmanier Pass over the Hinterrhein as far as the Bernina: from place to place as much as 50 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 5 to 10 cm over widespread areas.

#### Temperature

In northern regions temperatures are expected to drop. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be approximately -3 °C in all regions of Switzerland.

#### Wind

- The southerly foehn wind will be blowing at strong to storm-strength on Thursday evening. During Thursday night it will come to an end.
- In the mountains, winds will be blowing at strong velocity during the night in western regions, in some places at storm strength, from southerly to southwesterly directions. During the daytime on Friday, winds will shift to westerly and be blowing for the most part at moderate strength.

**Outlook** through Sunday, 5.2.2017

Skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by repeated bouts of snowfall above approximately 1200 m, but not without some bright intervals. In southern regions it will be partly sunny on Sunday, and it will remain dry. Winds on both days will be westerly, blowing at strong to storm velocity. The avalanche danger is expected to increase somewhat in northern regions; in northern and the furthestmost western parts of the Lower Valais danger levels will increase significantly. In southern regions avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.