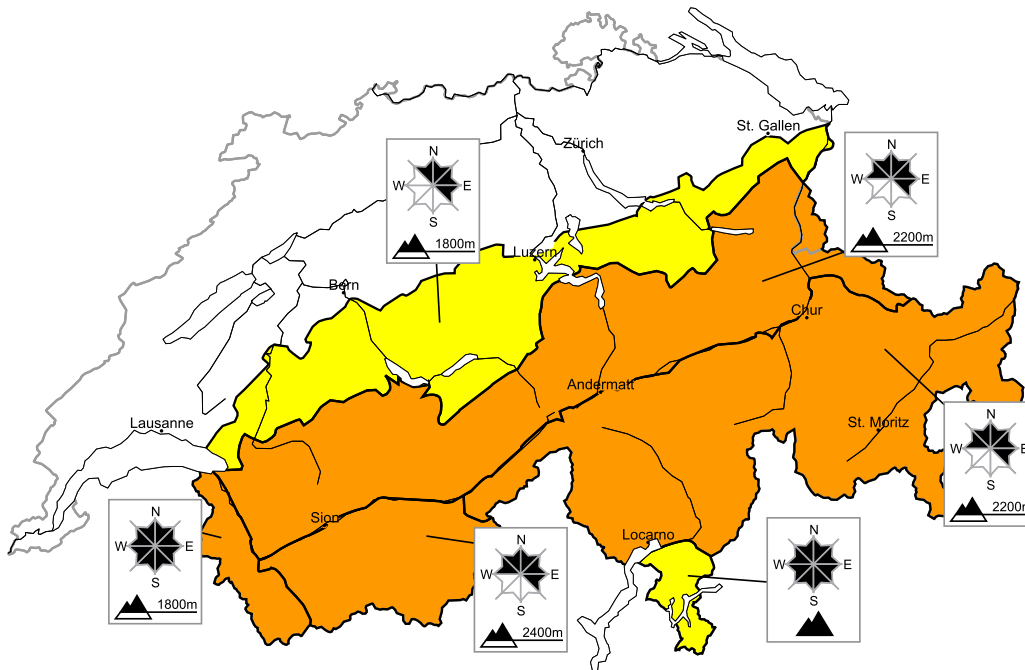


# A precarious avalanche situation will persist

Edition: 4.2.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 4.2.2017, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 4.2.2017, 08:00

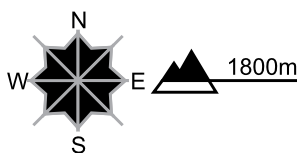


**region A** **Level 3, considerable**



### Fresh snow and snow drifts

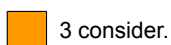
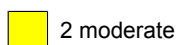
#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As the day progresses as a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather there will be an increase in the avalanche danger. The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. The older snow drift accumulations can especially at their margins be released. Caution is to be exercised at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

**Danger levels**



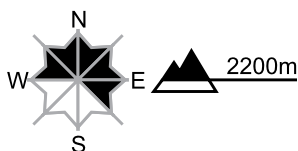
**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



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

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Weak layers in the old snowpack necessitate caution. Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size. Whumping 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.

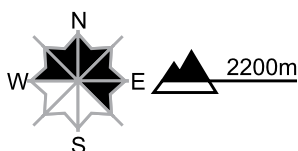
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



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

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The avalanche danger will increase during the day. As a consequence of the stormy weather snow drift accumulations will form. This applies in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain as well as areas not adjacent to the ridge line. The snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in deeper layers on steep shady slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

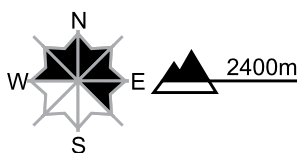
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Old snow, snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached as the day progresses. As a consequence of the strong wind the snow drift accumulations will increase in size. They are prone to triggering. Avalanches can additionally be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular in little used backcountry terrain. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but 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.

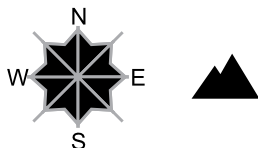
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Fresh snow, wet and full-depth avalanches**

**Avalanche prone locations**

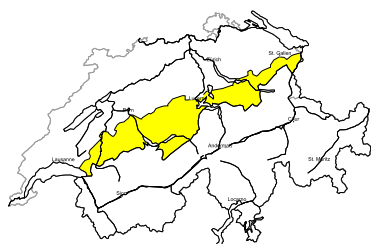


**Danger description**

The fresh snow of the last two days can still be released in some cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep shady slopes above approximately 1600 m. In all aspects mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

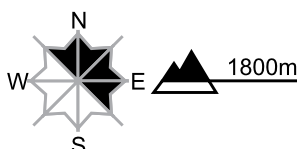
**region F**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The avalanche danger will increase during the day. As a consequence of the stormy weather snow drift accumulations will form. This applies in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain as well as areas not adjacent to the ridge line. The snow drift accumulations will be deposited on a crust below approximately 2200 m. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 3.2.2017, 17:00

### Snowpack

On Saturday storm-strength westerly winds will transport the new fallen snow into the regions which remained untouched by the southerly foehn winds including also the loosely-packed old snow above 2200 m. Snowdrift accumulations will be formed far distant from ridgelines. In the western regions which experience heavier snowfall, these accumulations can be large-sized.

In southern regions, particularly on wind-protected shady slopes, the fresh fallen snow from the last two days was deposited on top of an unfavourable old snowpack surface. In northern Ticino, in addition, the surface hoar was blanketed by fresh fallen snow already two days previously. At intermediate altitudes in central Ticino and in Sotto Ceneri, as well as in southern Grisons, the fresh fallen snow was often deposited on bare ground.

In northern regions, southwesterly winds and foehn transported the loosely-packed old snow at high altitudes. Below 2200m in western regions and below approximately 2000 m in the remaining regions of Switzerland the snowpack was already wet or at least superficially moist, thereby hindering its transport by and large.

More deeply embedded inside the snowpack, on shady, wind-protected slopes between approximately 2200 and 2800 m more than anywhere else, there are weak layers in the old snowpack. These weak layers are most likely to trigger in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons.

### Observed weather on Friday, 3.2.2017

As of the early morning hours, a weather perturbation swiftly moved clear across Switzerland from the west, bringing a small amount of snowfall above 1000 to 1500 m. In its wake it rapidly became sunny from the west, before cloud cover again moved in during the afternoon into the furthestmost western regions. In southern regions and in the Upper Engadine, skies were heavily overcast and there was snowfall until midday, with the snowfall level at approximately 1000 m.

#### Fresh snow

Between Thursday morning and Friday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- southern flank of the Alps not including Val Müstair, Upper Engadine: 20 to 40 cm;
- Upper Valais part of Main Alpine Ridge along the Italian border, remaining parts of Main Alpine Ridge from Nufenen Pass into Avers, Bivio, Juf and the Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, less than 10 cm.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -1 °C.

#### Wind

- During the night strong southerly winds, in isolated places also blowing at storm strength; in the valleys of the northern regions, foehn wind.
- During the daytime, only light-to-moderate southerly to southwesterly winds will still be felt.

## Weather forecast through Saturday, 4.2.2017

Skies will be overcast and intermittent snowfall is anticipated. In particular during the morning, bright intervals are expected in eastern regions. A strong-velocity westerly wind will be blowing.

### Fresh snow

The snowfall level will fluctuate between 1000 and 1500 m in northern regions; in southern regions it will be at approximately 1000 m. By Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are expected:

- furthestmost western part of Lower Valais: 30 to 40 cm;
- Vaud and Fribourg Alps, northern Alpine Ridge of the Rhone into the Jungfrau region, remaining parts of Lower Valais: 15 to 30 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: 5 to 15 cm over widespread areas.

### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in western and in southern regions, -5 °C; in northeastern regions, -1 °C.

### Wind

- On the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais, increasingly strong westerly winds, ultimately reaching storm strength during the course of the day;
- In southern regions and in Grisons, moderate to strong velocity southwesterly winds.

## Outlook through Monday, 6.2.2017

### Sunday

As a result of strong-velocity westerly winds, conditions are expected to remain instable accompanied by intermittent snowfall, most of which will fall in western regions. In eastern regions more than anywhere else, there will also be bright intervals. In western regions, avalanche danger is expected to further increase somewhat. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.

### Monday

In northern regions, snowfall down to low lying areas is anticipated. The amounts of fresh fallen snow and their distribution are still uncertain. The winds will shift to northwesterly. The avalanche danger is expected to further increase somewhat. In southern regions, storm-strength foehn winds will set in and transport the loosely-packed old snow. The avalanche danger will increase.