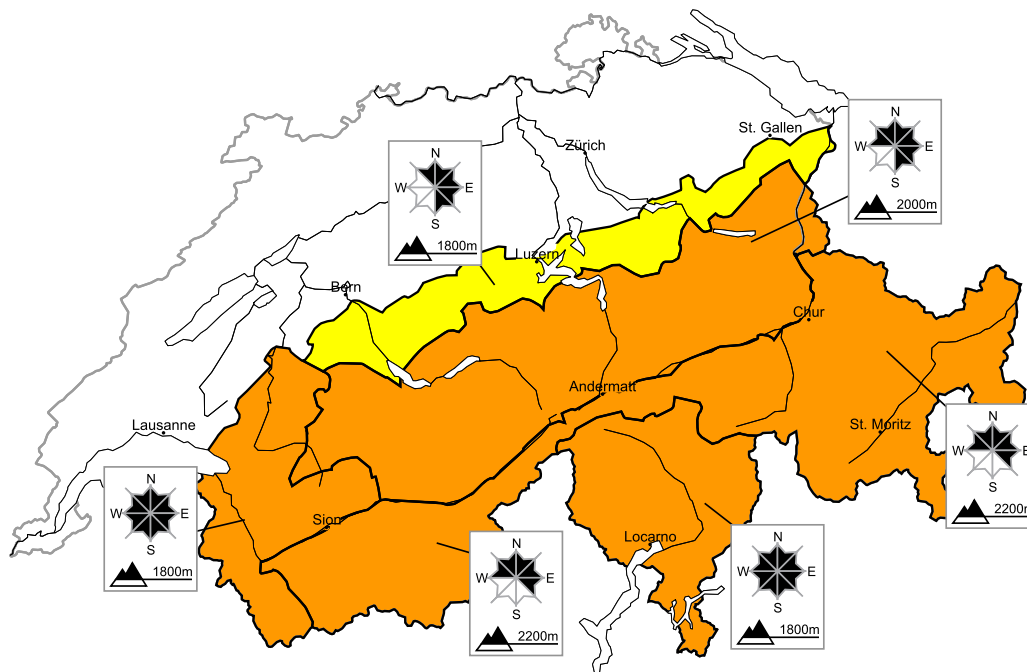


A precarious avalanche situation will persist

Edition: 5.2.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 5.2.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 5.2.2017, 08:00

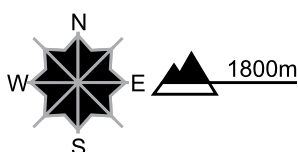


region A **Level 3, considerable**



Fresh snow and snow drifts

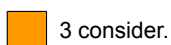
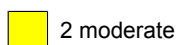
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

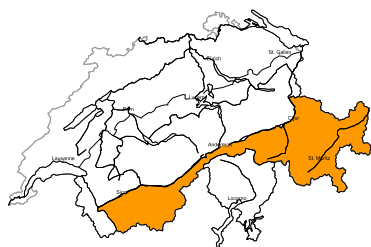
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released easily. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. In particular on north and east facing slopes the avalanches can reach dangerously large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Danger levels



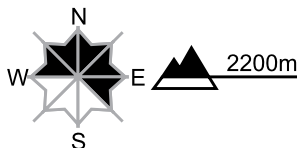
region B

Level 3, considerable



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.

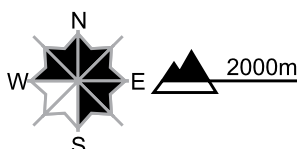
region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise, especially in the Bernese Oberland and in Valais. 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, especially in the Bernese Oberland and in Valais.

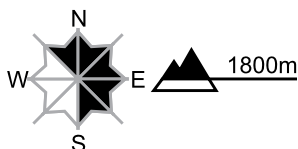
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.2.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

Strong-velocity, intermittently also storm-strength southwesterly winds have transported the snow, the most recently fallen fresh fallen snow more than anything else. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering. They are being blanketed over by newer fresh fallen snow, which will make the drifts difficult to recognize.

In northern regions the snow cover at intermediate altitudes is thoroughly wet. The fresh fallen snow was frequently deposited on top of a melt-freeze crust. At high altitudes between 2200 and 2800 m, there are more deeply embedded layers inside the old snowpack, particularly on shady, wind-protected slopes, which are weak. These can most easily be triggered in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, as well as in general on slopes where the snow is shallow or in transitions from shallow to deep snow.

In southern regions, particularly on wind-protected shady slopes, the fresh fallen snow from this week 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 during previous days. 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.

Observed weather on Saturday, 4.2.2017

Skies were for the most part heavily overcast accompanied by isolated bright intervals. There was intermittent snowfall in western and southern regions more than anywhere else. The snowfall level in western and northern regions was 1200 m; in southern regions at 800 m.

Fresh snow

Between Friday evening and Saturday afternoon in the Lower Valais, in northern Valais, in the Fribourg Alps and in Ticino, there was 10 to 25 cm of fresh fallen snow registered; in the other regions of Switzerland, less. All in all between Thursday morning and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered above approximately 1800 m:

- southern flank of the Alps not including Val Müstair: 30 to 50 cm;
- northern and furthestmost western parts of Lower Valais: 20 to 30 cm;
- remaining parts of the Valais, remaining parts of Main Alpine Ridge from the Gotthard region into the Upper Engadine: 10 to 20 cm;
- other regions of Switzerland, less than 10 cm.

Temperature

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

Wind

- During the night on the northern Alpine Ridge, moderate to strong-velocity winds will be blowing, in other regions of Switzerland blowing at light to moderate strength, from southerly directions.
- During the daytime in western and northern regions, strong to storm-strength winds, in other regions of Switzerland moderate to strong velocity winds, from southwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 5.2.2017

Following nocturnal clearing, skies on Sunday will generally be heavily overcast accompanied by a small amount of intermittent snowfall above approximately 1000 m, most of which is expected to fall in western regions. In eastern regions, there will still be foehn-induced bright intervals in the early morning hours.

Fresh snow

- western parts of Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps: 10 to 20 cm;
- remaining regions of the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and of the Valais, southern flank of the Alps: 5 to 10 cm; in other regions of Switzerland, less.

Temperature

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

Wind

- during the night, strong to storm-strength westerly winds, slackening off as morning approaches.
- during the daytime, predominantly light to moderate-strength winds from southerly directions.

Outlook through Tuesday, 7.2.2017

In northern regions, some snowfall down to low lying areas is anticipated. The snowfall will slacken off on Tuesday. Winds will shift to northwesterly. South of the Main Alpine Ridge it will be partly sunny. On Sunday night, strong-velocity northerly foehn winds are expected to arise. The avalanche danger will increase somewhat over widespread areas.

