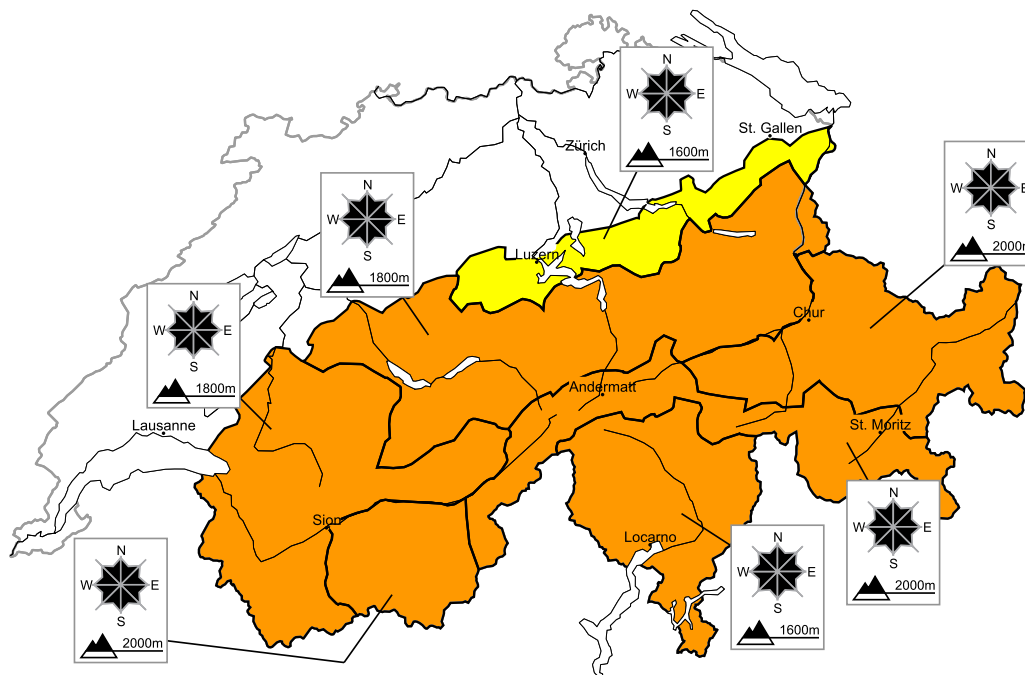


# As a consequence of fresh snow and wind a critical avalanche situation will prevail

Edition: 6.2.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 6.2.2017, 17:00

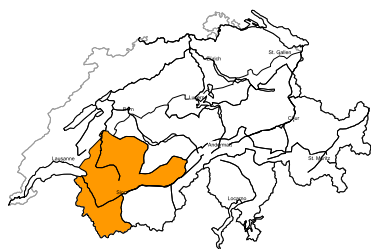
## Avalanche danger

updated on 6.2.2017, 08:00



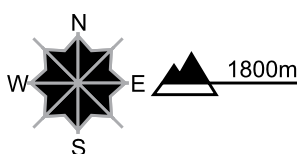
**region A**

**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 are prone to triggering. As a consequence of the northerly wind further snow drift accumulations will form. These are in some cases large. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches in many places, including medium-sized ones. Natural avalanches are possible. In particular on north and east facing slopes they 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. Southern Lower Valais: In some places avalanches can also penetrate deep layers. This applies in particular on shady slopes.

**Danger levels**

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



WSL Institute for Snow and  
 Avalanche Research SLF  
 www.slf.ch

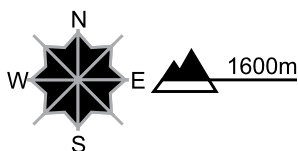
**region B**

**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 are prone to triggering. As a consequence of the northerly wind further snow drift accumulations will form, this also applies below the tree line. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches in many places, including medium-sized ones. Natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

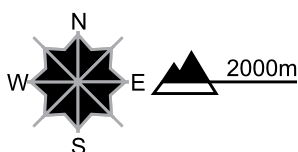
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular on north and east facing slopes. They are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Fresh snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular on south facing slopes. As the day progresses the snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Individual natural avalanches are possible. In some places avalanches can also penetrate deep layers reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint.

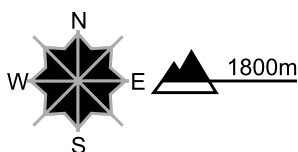
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**

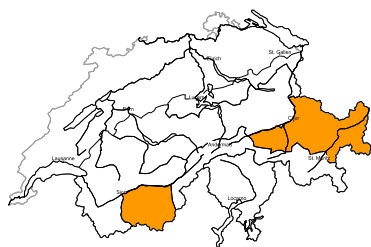


**Danger description**

The various snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. These are to be found in particular on north and east facing slopes. They are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Fresh snow drift accumulations will form in particular on south facing slopes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

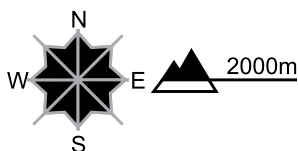
**region E**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. In particular on shady slopes these can penetrate even deep layers and reach a dangerous size. Individual natural avalanches are possible. 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.

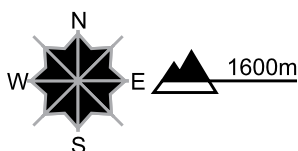
**region F**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They 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. 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.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 5.2.2017, 17:00

### Snowpack

As a result of new fallen snow and northerly winds, new snowdrift accumulations are forming. In western and in southern regions these drifted masses are large-sized.

The new fallen and newly drifted layers of snowdrift which accumulated throughout this last week are to some extent still prone to triggering. They have been deposited on top of a melt-freeze crust, in many cases on top of surface hoar in the Valais, in Ticino and in Grisons. More deeply embedded inside the snowpack at altitudes between 2200 and 2800 m, more than anywhere else on wind-protected, shady slopes, weakened layers are evident. 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, these drifted masses are still prone to triggering.

In central Ticino and in Sotto Ceneri, as well as in the southern valleys of Grisons, the snowfall of last week frequently fell on bare ground at intermediate altitudes.

### Observed weather on Sunday, 5.2.2017

Following a night of partially clear skies, skies were for the most part heavily overcast during the daytime today, accompanied by snowfall in western regions. In the remaining regions of Switzerland there was intermittently a small amount of snowfall. The snowfall level was between 700 and 1000 m.

#### Fresh snow

On Sunday in the northern Lower Valais, there was 10 to 15 cm of new fallen snow registered; in the remaining parts of the Valais, in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps and in Ticino, there was 5 to 10 cm of fresh fallen snow registered; in the other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimeters of new fallen snow.

Between Thursday and Sunday above approximately 2000m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- northern Valais from Trient into the Aletsch region, central sector of the northern flank of the Alps, Val Bregaglia and the Bernina region: 30 to 50 cm;
- northern flank of the Alps west of Lake Thun, remaining parts of Valais, Upper Engadine: 15 to 30 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, 5 to 15 cm over widespread areas.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -1 °C in northwestern regions and -6 °C in southern regions.

#### Wind

- during the night on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais, moderate to strong-velocity winds, in other regions light to moderate-strength winds from southwesterly directions;
- during the morning in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, intermittently strong-velocity winds, in the other regions of Switzerland predominantly light to moderate-strength winds, blowing from southerly directions.

**Weather forecast** through Monday, 6.2.2017

Skies are expected to be heavily overcast and in northern regions, snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas above approximately 600 m. During the afternoon, the snowfall will slacken off. In southern regions, the precipitation will come to an end during the course of the day and it will become partly sunny under the influence of the northerly foehn winds.

**Fresh snow**

- On the northern flank of the Alps, in western Lower Valais: 15 to 30 cm; on the northern Alpine Ridge from the Trient region into the Aletsch region, as much as 40 cm;
- remaining parts of the Valais, northern and central Grisons: 10 to 20 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland: 5 to 10 cm.

**Temperature**

At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C in northern regions and -1 °C in southern regions.

**Wind**

- during the night, moderate to strong-velocity winds from northerly directions.
- during the daytime, predominantly moderate-strength winds from northerly to northeasterly directions, in southern regions strong-velocity northerly foehn winds extending down into the valleys.

**Outlook** through Wednesday, 8.2.2017

In northern regions skies will be variably cloudy on both days, accompanied by sunny intervals and snow showers. In southern regions, it will be predominantly sunny on Tuesday; on Wednesday above approximately 1000m a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. The avalanche danger is expected to diminish, however, only very slowly in the regions where the old snowpack is weakened.