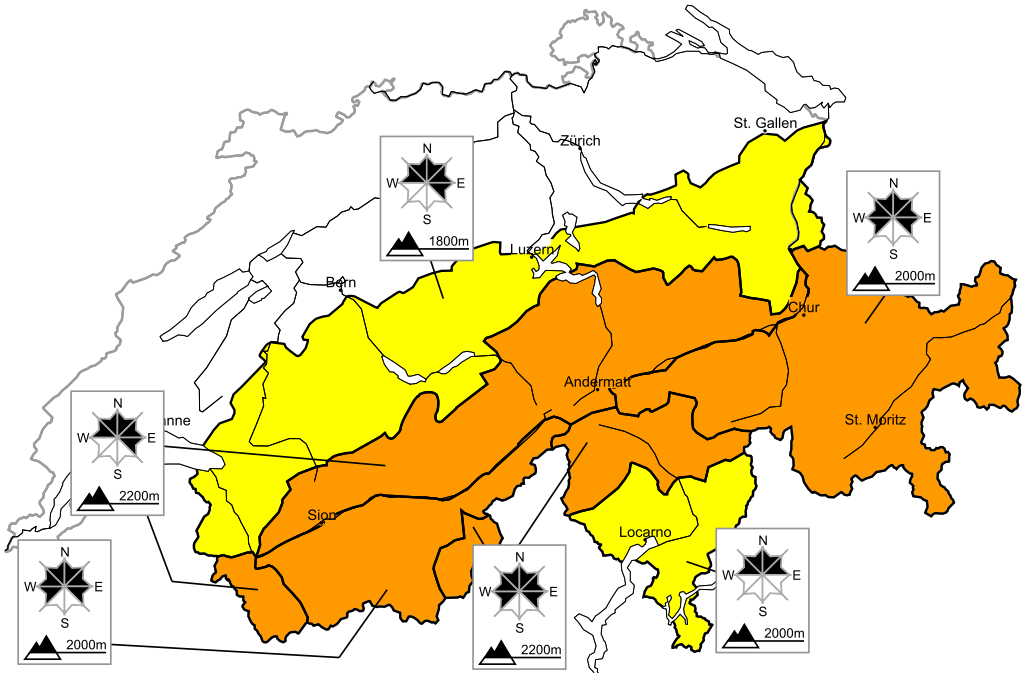
Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 11 February 2017

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Snow drifts and weakly bonded old snow require caution

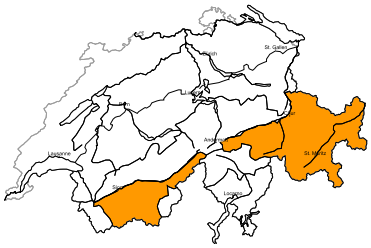
Edition: 11.2.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 11.2.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 11.2.2017, 08:00

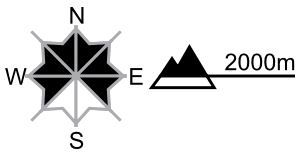


region A | **Level 3, considerable**



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

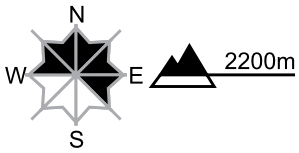
Distinct weak layers in the old snowpack necessitate caution. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. In particular on shady slopes these can penetrate even deep layers and reach a dangerous size, especially in little used backcountry terrain. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Remote triggering is possible.
Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations can in some cases be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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

region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



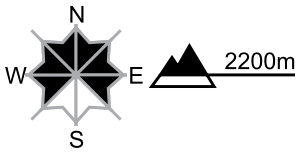
Danger description

As a consequence of the southerly wind sometimes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. This applies in particular in the regions exposed to the foehn wind as well as at elevated altitudes. In some cases the snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can in isolated cases reach medium size.
Careful route selection is required. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

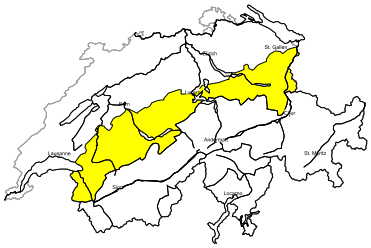
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

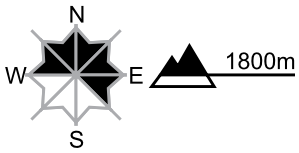
As a consequence of fresh snow and wind sometimes easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. This applies in particular at elevated altitudes. The snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. Careful route selection is required. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are to be assessed with care and prudence. These are mostly small. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Meticulous route selection is recommended.

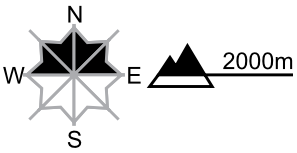
WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF
www.slf.ch

region E

Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The older snow drift accumulations can especially at their margins be released by people. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. They are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Careful route selection is recommended.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.2.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

With strong-velocity southerly winds in some places, snowdrift accumulations were created more than anywhere else on the northern Alpine Ridge and in the higher altitude foehn-exposed zones of the north. These drifted masses can continue to grow larger in some places. They are from place to place already dangerously large and prone to triggering.
More deeply embedded inside the old snowpack at altitudes between 2200 and 2800 m, in particular on shady, wind-protected slopes, there are weak layers lurking inside the snowpack. These are especially threatening, i.e. prone to triggering, in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, it is in the places where snow is shallow or in transitions from shallow to deep snow that avalanches are most likely to trigger in the weakened old snow cover.

Observed weather on Friday, 10.2.2017

In southern regions skies were overcast accompanied by precipitation in Ticino more than anywhere else. In northern regions skies were for the most part heavily overcast, accompanied by a small amount of precipitation and some bright intervals. In eastern regions it was partly sunny.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level generally lay below 1000 m. There was snowfall.
· in the southern Simplon regions and in northern Ticino, 15 to 30 cm;
· in other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimeters from place to place; in eastern regions it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C in western and southern regions; and -4 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

Winds were blowing from southerly directions,
· intermittently at moderate to strong velocity on the northern Alpine Ridge, particularly in the Bernese Oberland and in central Switzerland;
· in other regions, generally at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 11.2.2017

In eastern and inneralpine regions it will be quite sunny, in western regions heavily overcast skies by and large, on the southern flank of the Alps skies will be overcast.

Fresh snow

On Friday night, particularly on the Main Alpine Ridge in Grisons, a few additional centimeters of snowfall is anticipated.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -4 °C in northern regions and -6 °C in southern regions.

Wind

At high altitudes, moderate-strength southerly to southwesterly winds, on the northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge blowing to some extent at strong velocity.

Outlook through Monday, 13.2.2017

On both days in northern regions it will be rather sunny and to some extent foehn-influenced. On the southern flank of the Alps skies will be heavily overcast for the most part with intermittent bright intervals. The avalanche danger is expected to recede only very incrementally.