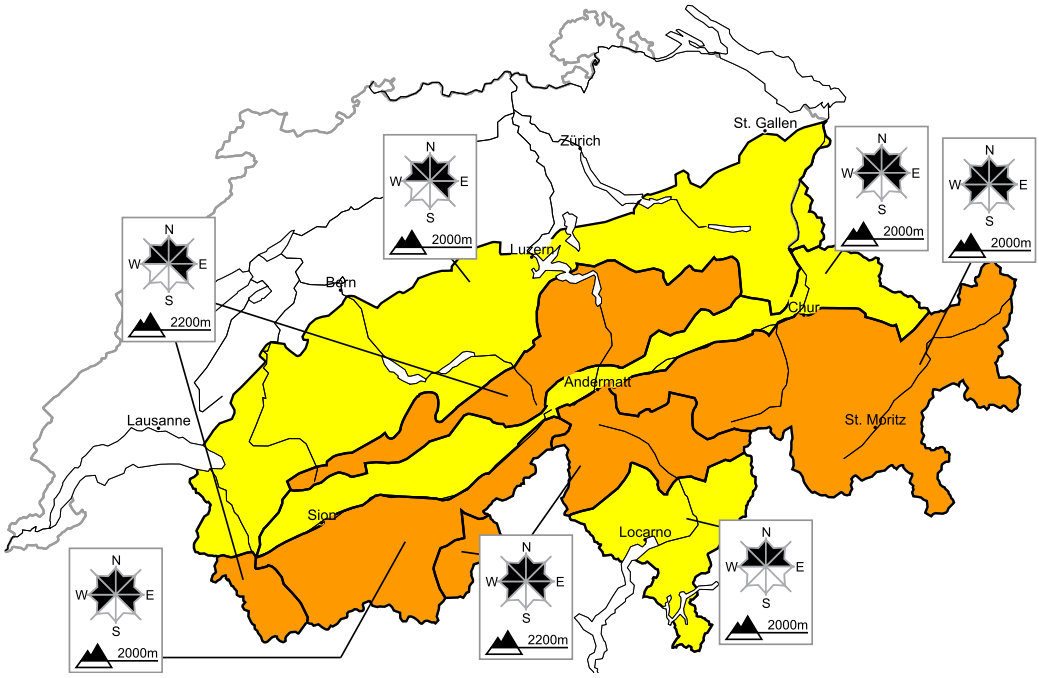
Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 12 February 2017

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

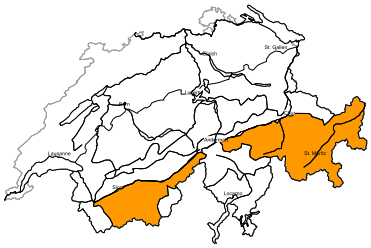
Edition: 12.2.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 12.2.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 12.2.2017, 08:00

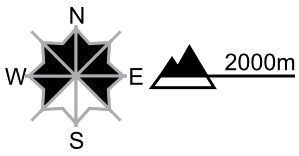


region A — Level 3, considerable



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.

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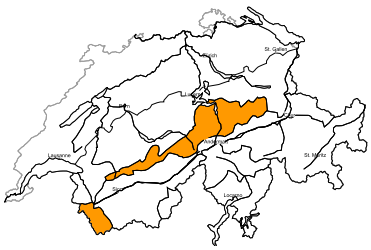
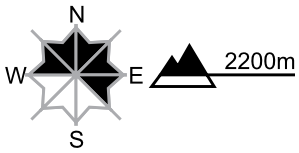
region B — Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



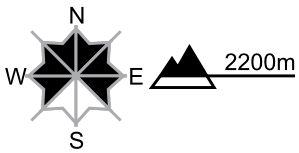
Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can in isolated cases reach medium size. At elevated altitudes and in the regions exposed to the foehn wind avalanche prone locations are more widespread.
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

Snow drifts

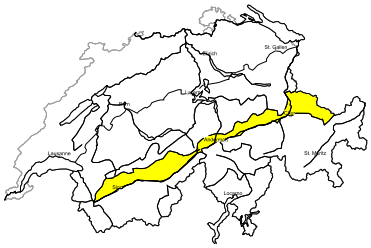
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

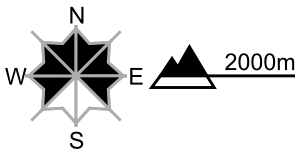
Fresh and older snow drift accumulations can in some cases be released easily. This applies in particular at elevated altitudes. The snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. Careful route selection is required. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Weak layers in the lower part of the snowpack are treacherous. In isolated cases avalanches can penetrate even deep layers and reach a dangerous size, especially in little used backcountry terrain. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on steep shady slopes above approximately 2000 m. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger. Steep shady slopes are to be traversed by snow sport participants one at a time.

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations can in some cases be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

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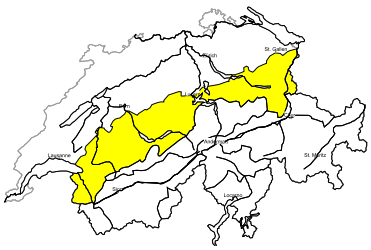
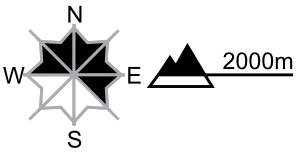
region E — Level 2, moderate



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.

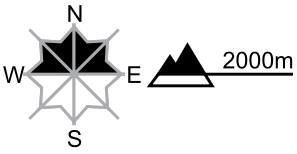
Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible.

region F — Level 2, moderate

Old snow

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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 11.2.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

The southerly winds which were blowing at strong velocity in some places caused snowdrift accumulations to form on Friday and Saturday on the northern Alpine Ridge and in the higher altitude foehn-exposed regions of the north more than anywhere else. In these regions, the drifted masses became quite large in some places; in the other regions the drifts were generally small-sized. These older drifts, together with the fresh drifts expected to form on Sunday, will be prone to triggering in some places.
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 Saturday, 11.2.2017

On Saturday night there was a small amount of snowfall on the southern flank of the Alps and in Grisons. During the daytime on Sunday skies on the southern flank of the Alps were overcast. In the remaining regions of Switzerland it was predominantly sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow
Since the beginning of this round of precipitation on Thursday night, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow have been registered:
- southern Simplon region, northern Ticino, Alto Val Moesa, Bergell: 20 to 30 cm;
- central Ticino, Basso Val Moesa, southern Upper Engadine, Val Poschiavo: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, less; or else it remained dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: -4 °C.

Wind
Winds were southerly,
- on Saturday night on the northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge frequently blowing at moderate strength; in the other regions predominantly at light strength;
- during the daytime blowing at light to moderate strength for the most part; intensifying during the afternoon on the northern Alpine Ridge.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 12.2.2017

On the southern flank of the Alps skies will be heavily overcast by and large, accompanied by some bright intervals. In the remaining regions of Switzerland it will be rather sunny in spite of dense, high-altitude clouds in some regions.

Fresh snow
-

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

Wind
Winds will be southwesterly, blowing at moderate strength; blowing at strong velocity on the northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge, particularly during the morning. In the upper Alpine valleys, foehn wind will prevail.

Outlook through Tuesday, 14.2.2017

On Monday and Tuesday in northern regions, it will be mostly sunny in the mountains. On the southern flank of the Alps, skies will be variably cloudy. The avalanche danger is expected to decrease, however only very gradually in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons.