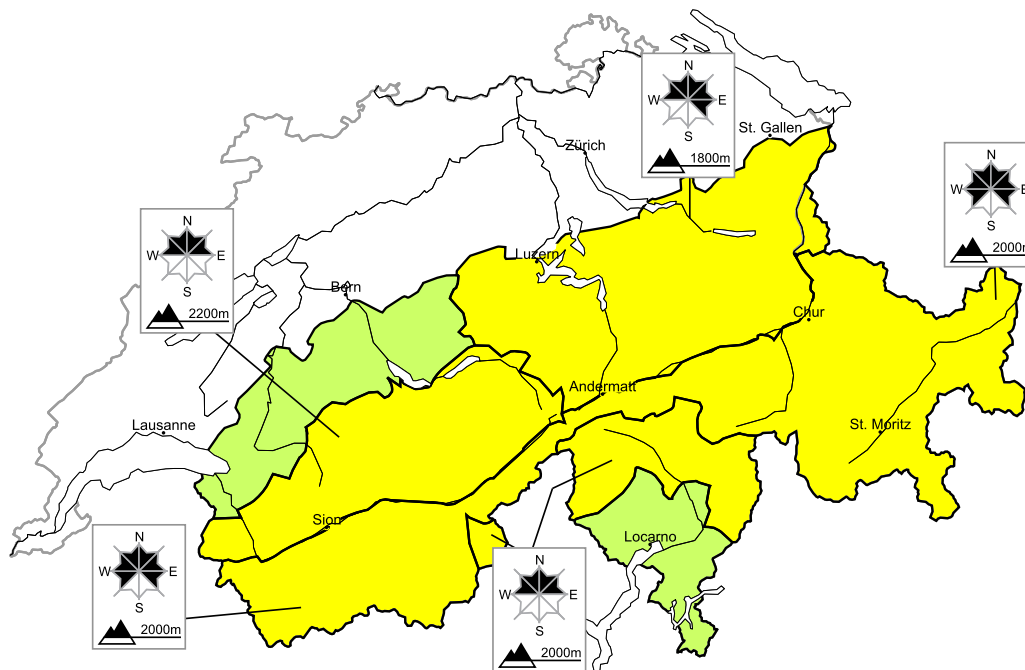


Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 19.2.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 19.2.2017, 17:00

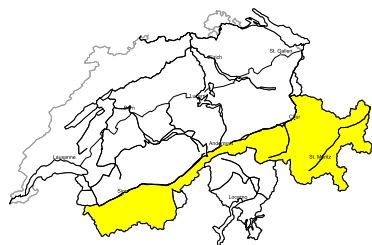
Avalanche danger

updated on 19.2.2017, 08:00



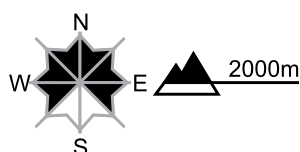
region A

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Weak layers deep in the old snowpack can be released by a single winter sport participant in particular on shady slopes, especially in little used backcountry terrain. The avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Avalanches can in isolated cases reach medium size.

In particular adjacent to the ridge line small snow drift accumulations have formed. These are in some cases prone to triggering.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection. Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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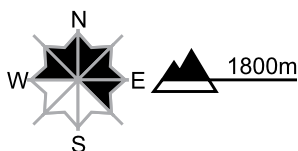
region B

Level 2, moderate



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

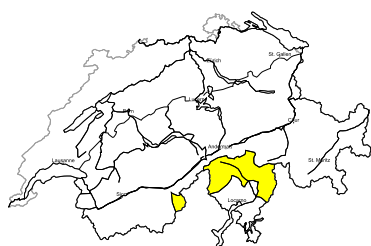


Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of Friday are in some cases still prone to triggering in particular on shady slopes. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed in steep terrain. Mostly the avalanches are small but can be released in some cases by a single winter sport participant. Careful route selection is important.

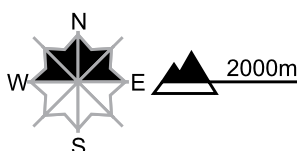
region C

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations

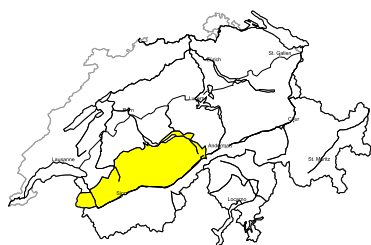


Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers, in particular by large additional loads. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. In addition, small snow drift accumulations have formed, in particular adjacent to the ridge line. Careful route selection is recommended.

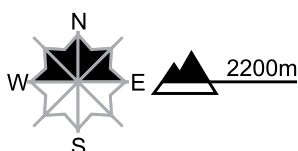
region D

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations

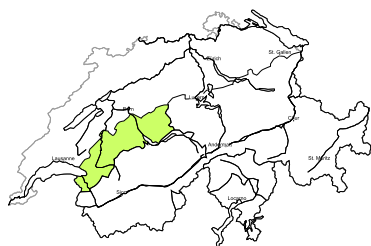


Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers, in particular by large additional loads. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. They are covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. In addition, small snow drift accumulations have formed, in particular adjacent to the ridge line. Careful route selection is recommended.

region E

Level 1, low

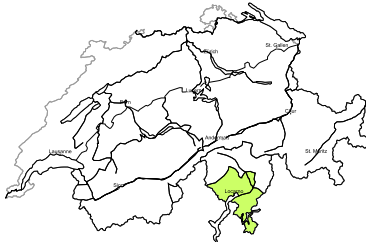


Snow drifts

As a consequence of the westerly wind small snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in extreme terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region F

Level 1, low



Old snow

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 18.2.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

On Friday in eastern regions in particular, large-sized snowdrift accumulations formed. These drifted masses were deposited more than anywhere else on shady slopes on top of an unfavourable old snowpack surface and are prone to triggering in some places. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are only small-sized.

More deeply embedded inside the snow cover at altitudes between 2200 m and 2800 m on wind-protected, shady slopes more than anywhere else, weakened layers are evident. These weak layers threaten particularly, i.e. are especially prone to triggering, in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, it is particularly the shallow-snow zones or the transitions from shallow to deep snow which in isolated cases can still trigger avalanches that fracture down to lower-level layers of the snowpack.

On very steep south-facing slopes the snowpack surface is frozen in the early morning hours, excluding in the eastern regions, and the crust is capable of bearing loads over widespread areas. On north-facing slopes the snowpack surface is powdery in some places, but equally often, also wind-impacted.

Observed weather on Saturday, 18.2.2017

On Friday night there was a small amount of additional snowfall down to low altitudes. During the daytime on Saturday, residual cloud still persisted below approximately 1800 m in eastern regions more than anywhere else. In the mountains and in the remaining regions of Switzerland, it was sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Friday morning and Friday night, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered above approximately 1500 m:

- northern flank of the Alps east of Lake Brienz, northern Tujetsch, Flims, Calanda, northern Prättigau: 15 to 30 cm;
- regions bordering the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, less; in southern regions it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C.

Wind

Winds were still blowing from northerly directions, at moderate strength during the night on the northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge; during the daytime predominantly at light strength.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 19.2.2017

It will be sunny in the mountains. In the latter part of the afternoon, clouds will move in from the north.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C.

Wind

In the early morning hours winds will still be light for the most part, during the course of the day they will intensify to moderate-to-strong velocity, from westerly directions.

Outlook through Tuesday, 21.2.2017

Monday

On Sunday night in northern regions, an insignificant amount of snowfall is possible. On Monday morning in eastern regions, residual cloud will persist. In other regions it will be predominantly sunny during the day. In the afternoon, cloud cover will again move in from the northwest. The avalanche danger is expected to incrementally decrease.

Tuesday

In northern regions snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1500 m. In southern regions it will be rather sunny. The avalanche danger could increase somewhat in northern regions as a result of the fresh fallen snow. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.