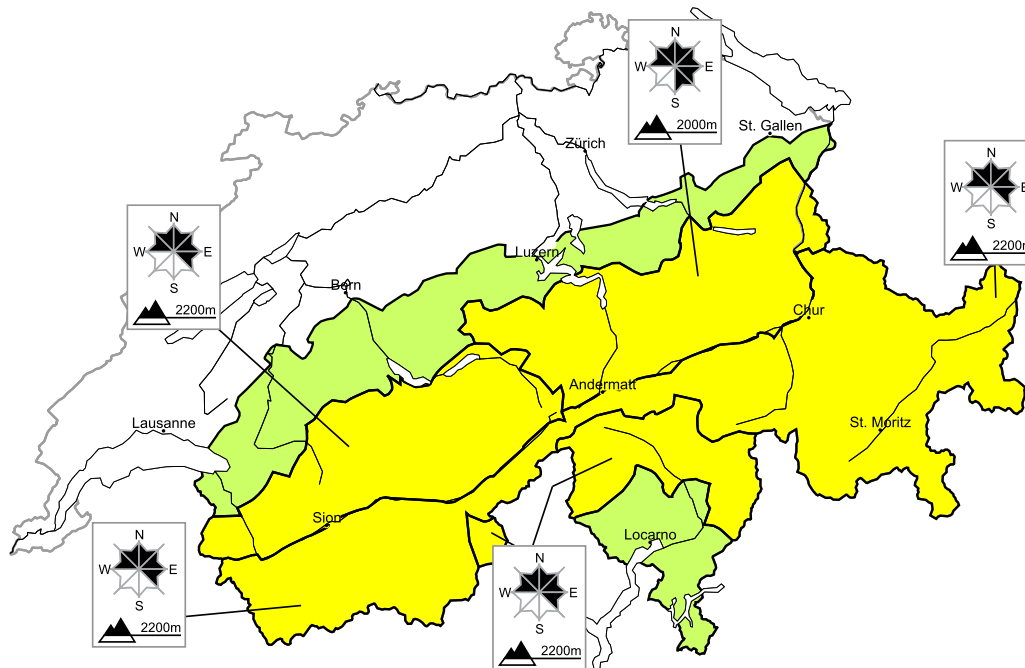


Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 22.2.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 22.2.2017, 17:00

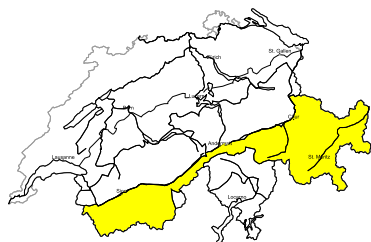
Avalanche danger

updated on 22.2.2017, 08:00



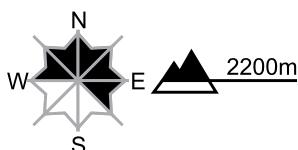
region A

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.

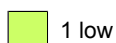
Fresh snow drift accumulations are to be found adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects, especially at elevated altitudes. They are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering.

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

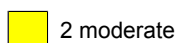
Wet avalanches

Mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on steep south facing slopes below approximately 2200 m.

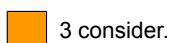
Danger levels



1 low



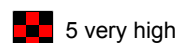
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



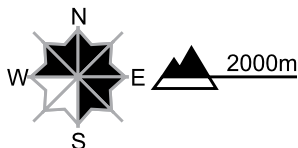
region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanche prone locations are to be found also adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects, in particular at elevated altitudes. Mostly avalanches are small but can be released in some cases even by a single winter sport participant. Careful route selection is important. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed as far as possible.

Wet avalanches

Mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2200 m.

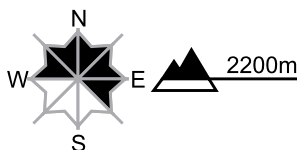
region C

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

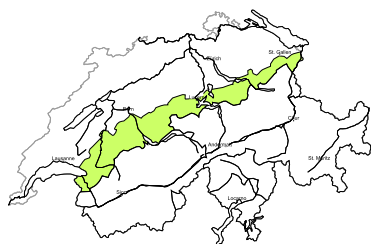
Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers, in particular by large additional loads. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Fresh snow drift accumulations are to be found adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. They are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. Careful route selection is recommended.

Wet avalanches

Mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2200 m.

region D

Level 1, low



Wet avalanches

Mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region E

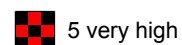
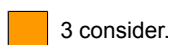
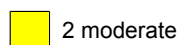
Level 1, low



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.

Danger levels



Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.2.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

Snow drift accumulations have formed at elevated altitudes. They are relatively large in the eastern regions, but mostly small elsewhere. In many cases they are hard. The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering in some cases.

As a consequence of the mild weather and rain, the near-surface snow layers have become moist up to altitudes of 2000 m to 2400 m.

Weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack on shady slopes protected from the wind in particular at altitudes between 2200 m and 2800 m. This old snowpack problem is especially prevalent in the inneralpine regions of both Valais and Grisons. In the other regions, in particular in areas with a shallow snowpack and at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, avalanches can still be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack in isolated cases.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 21.2.2017

The north was mostly very cloudy, and precipitation fell in particular in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons. There were bright spells on the southern flank of the Alps, and in the far south it was quite sunny.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level was mostly between 1500 and 2200 m. Above this level the following amounts of snow fell:

- Central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps: 5 to 15 cm
- Elsewhere on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons: smaller amounts or none

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about +2 °C in the north and +4 °C in the south

Wind

- At elevated altitudes mostly moderate to strong from the west to northwest
- Elsewhere mostly light to moderate from the west

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 22.2.2017

On Tuesday night the amount of cloud will decrease. In the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in Prättigau a few residual snowflakes will fall at elevated altitudes. During the day it will then be mostly sunny in the mountains despite high-altitude cloudbanks and some low-level residual cloud.

Fresh snow

A few centimetres of snow will fall in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in Prättigau.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about +3 °C

Wind

- At elevated altitudes mostly strong from the west to northwest
- Elsewhere generally moderate to strong from the west, but light to moderate from the north in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps

Outlook through Friday, 24.2.2017**Thursday**

It will be predominantly sunny in the mountains and partly sunny in the south. The westerly wind will remain strong to storm force. Towards the evening fresh cloud will quickly build up from the west. It will remain mild. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.

Friday

It will be very cloudy and there will be frequent precipitation in the north, in particular on the northern flank of the Alps. The snowfall level will drop to low altitudes. The west to northwesterly wind will remain strong. In the south the skies will become clear as a consequence of the northerly wind. The avalanche danger will increase over a wide area on the northern flank of the Alps in particular.