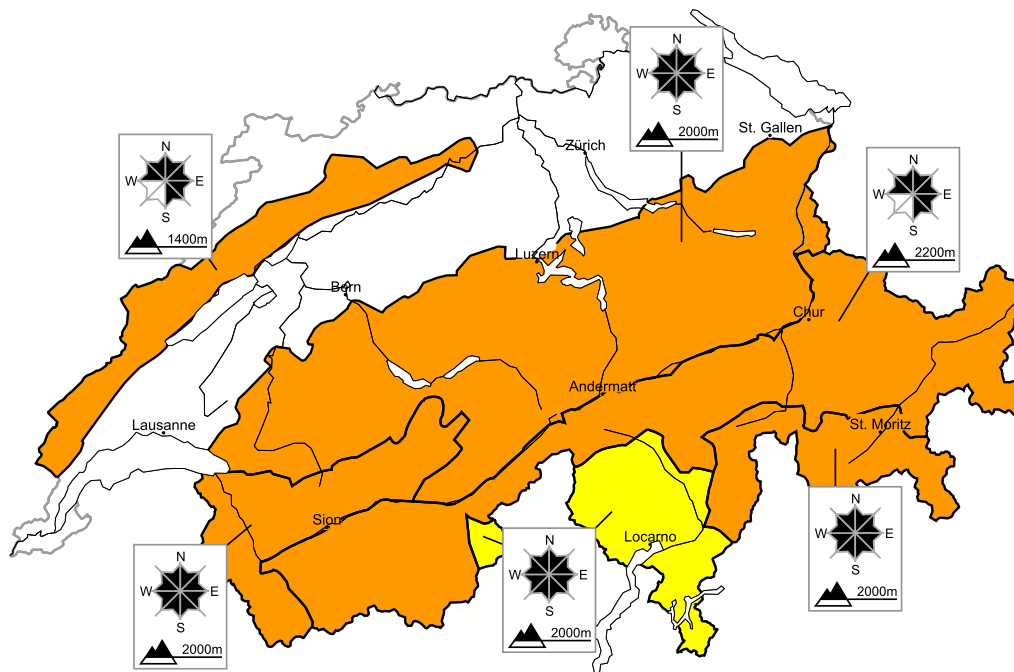


In the west a critical avalanche situation will prevail

Edition: 2.3.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 2.3.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 2.3.2017, 08:00

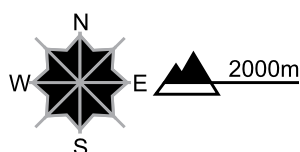


region A **Level 3, considerable**



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. Extensive snow drift accumulations have formed, also at a distance from the ridge line. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. In all aspects natural avalanches are possible. The conditions are critical for ski touring, freeriding and snowshoe hiking.

Wet avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m moist snow slides and avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects.

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

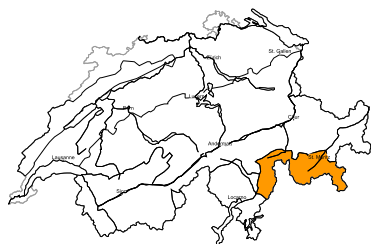
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are prone to triggering. Extensive snow drift accumulations have formed, also at a distance from the ridge line. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. In particular on north and east facing slopes individual natural avalanches are possible. The conditions are precarious for ski touring, freeriding and snowshoe hiking.

Wet avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m moist snow slides and avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects.

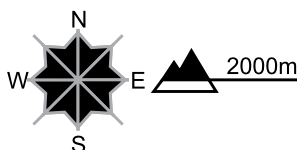
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

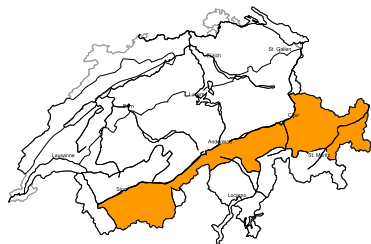


Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Especially on shady slopes avalanches can be released in deep layers of the snowpack and reach a dangerous size. Remote triggering is possible. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. The conditions are very precarious for ski touring, freeriding and snowshoe hiking.

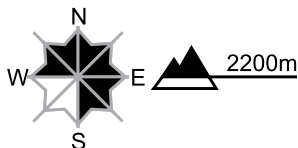
region D

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

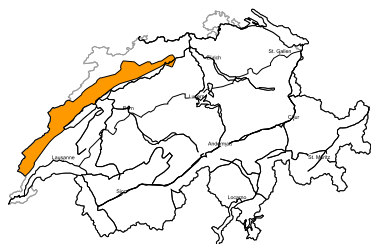
Snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They are covered with fresh snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. They can be released by a single winter sport participant.

On shady slopes avalanches can penetrate even deep layers and reach a dangerous size. This applies in particular in little used backcountry terrain above approximately 2200 m. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye.

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

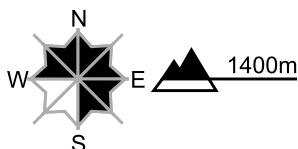
region E

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be found in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Mostly these are small. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Wet avalanches

Below approximately 1400 m wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected. This applies in all aspects.

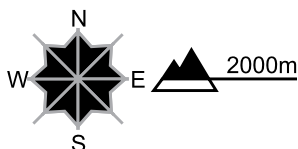
region F

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls in all aspects, also at a distance from the ridge line. They can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 1.3.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of snowfall and strong-to-stormy winds from varying directions, snowdrifts have formed over the last few days which in some places are large-sized. As the snowfall persists, accompanied by westerly winds, the snowdrift accumulations will continue to grow in size and frequency on Wednesday night in western and northern regions more than anywhere else.

In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, the new fallen and newly drifted snow of this week was deposited on top of a thin old snowpack surface which contains deeply embedded layers which are noticeably weak, particularly on shady slopes between 2200 and 2800 m. In those regions avalanches can fracture down to these inner layers and sweep the entire snowpack away, thus growing to dangerously large size.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 1.3.2017

Last night skies were overcast and there was snowfall over widespread areas, particularly intensive in the western Lower Valais. The snowfall level descended to approximately 600 m. In northern regions the snowfall slackened off during the daytime and skies were overcast. In the afternoon, snowfall set in once again in western regions. South of the Main Alpine Ridge it was predominantly sunny, in the Engadine partly so. In the Upper Valais as well as in northern and central Grisons, the skies were at least partially bright.

Fresh snow

Between Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered above approximately 1500 m:

- northern and furthestmost western parts of Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, Main Alpine Ridge from San Bernardino into the Bernina: 40 to 60 cm; in the northern Lower Valais as much as 80 cm;
- remaining parts of lower Valais, western Bernese Alps, remaining parts of the Upper Engadine: 30 to 40 cm;
- Jura, Ticino, Arosa, Davos, Lower Engadine: 15 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds were blowing at strong velocity, in high alpine regions at storm strength in some places, from west to north; during the course of the day, winds eased off somewhat.
- In southern regions, winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity during the night, during the daytime at light to moderate strength, as northerly foehn wind.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 2.3.2017

Skies during the night will be heavily overcast. In northern and western regions, shower-like precipitation is anticipated which will persist until midday on Thursday. The snowfall level will ascend to 1000 to 1300 m. During the afternoon in western and southern regions, it will be predominantly sunny in high alpine regions, in other regions of the east skies will still be overcast.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday midday, the following amounts of new fallen snow are expected:

- Jura, northern Alpine Ridge, furthestmost western parts of Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps: 15 to 30 cm,
- remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps and of the Valais, northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; or else it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in northern regions and 0 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds in northern regions will be westerly, blowing at strong to storm strength; in the other regions of Switzerland, winds will be moderate, in high alpine regions strong, from west to northwest.

Outlook through Saturday, 4.3.2017

In northern regions it will be mild and partly sunny, as a result of increasing foehn-wind impact. On Saturday at midday, the foehn will come to an end. From the west, skies will become increasingly overcast, accompanied by precipitation. In southern regions skies will become increasingly cloudy, on Saturday they will be predominantly cloudy and above 1200 m snowfall is anticipated. In northern regions the danger of dry-snow avalanches as a result of the fresh fallen snow will not change significantly on Friday; on Saturday, danger levels are expected to diminish somewhat. In southern regions, the danger will increase as a result of the new fallen snow. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will be subject to a slight daytime danger cycle in northern regions.

