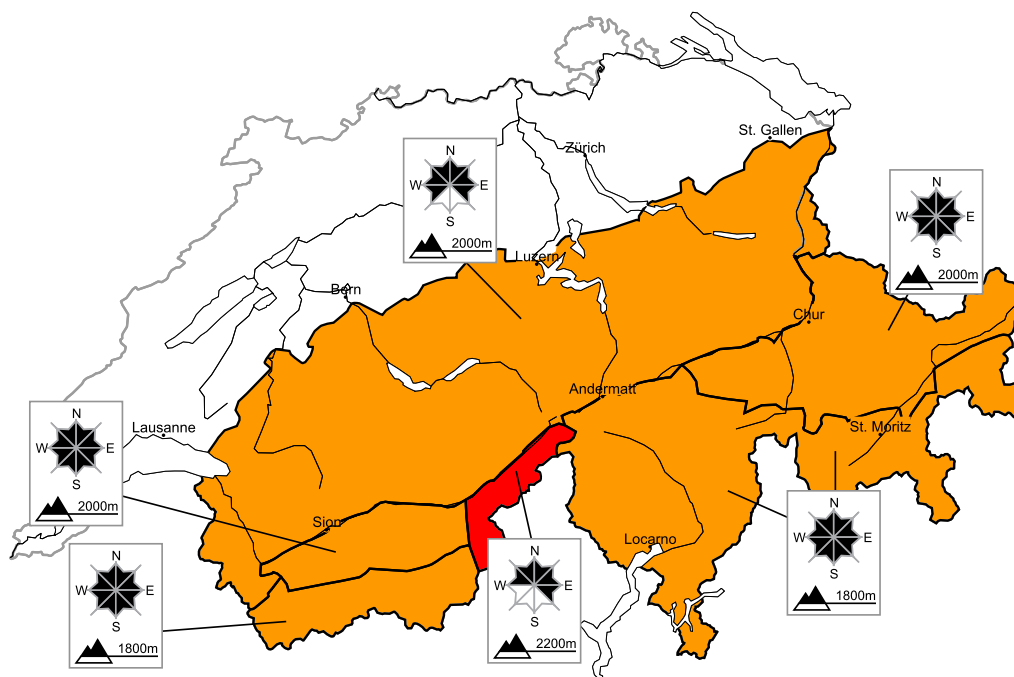


A critical avalanche situation will prevail. In southern Upper Valais a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 4.3.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 4.3.2017, 17:00

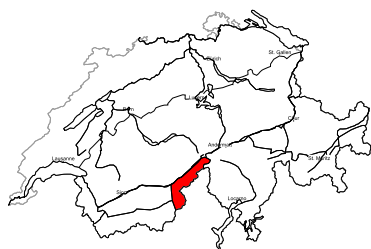
Avalanche danger

updated on 4.3.2017, 08:00



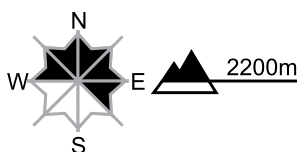
region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind large snow drift accumulations will form. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. As the day progresses more frequent natural avalanches are to be expected. Especially on shady slopes they can be released in deep layers of the snowpack and reach quite a large size. As the day progresses danger level 4 (high) will be reached.

The conditions are very critical for ski touring, freeriding and snowshoe hiking. Restraint is recommended.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



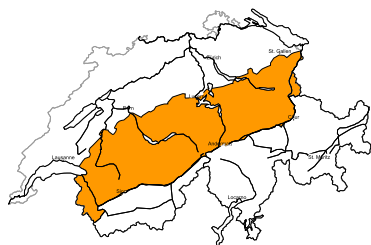
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. As the day progresses natural avalanches are possible. Especially on shady slopes they can be released in deep layers of the snowpack and reach a dangerous size. This applies in particular in Valais and in Grisons.

The conditions are critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities. Experience and restraint are required.

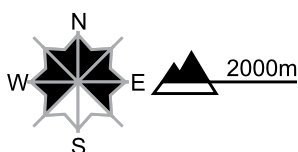
region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

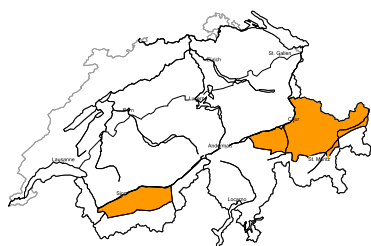


Danger description

As a consequence of the storm force foehn wind further snow drift accumulations will form. The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be avoided as far as possible.

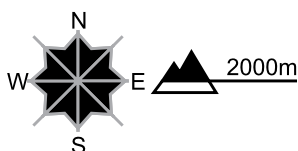
region D

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the southerly wind further snow drift accumulations will form. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can in many cases be released easily. Individual natural avalanches are possible. In particular on shady slopes they can penetrate even deep layers and reach a dangerous size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Remote triggering is possible.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection. More recent snow drift accumulations are to be avoided as far as possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 3.3.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

Storm-strength southerly winds have transported the fresh fallen snow of this week, snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering were the result, including far distant from ridgelines. In western and northern regions as well as in southern regions in which new fallen snow was heaviest, these snowdrift accumulations can be large-sized. The somewhat older layers of new fallen and newly drifted snow of this week are still triggerable on shady slopes at high altitudes more than anywhere else.

In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, the snowdrift accumulations were deposited on top of a thin old-snowpack surface which contains strikingly weak layers deeply embedded inside it on shady slopes between 2200 and 2800 m. In this regions, avalanches can, once again, fracture down to more deeply embedded layers inside the old snowpack, sweep away the entire snow mass and grow to dangerously large size.

Observed weather on Friday, 3.3.2017

Skies were partially clear during the night. During the daytime in northern regions it was quite sunny, during the afternoon accompanied by dense cloudbanks. In southern regions skies were heavily overcast and in Sotto Ceneri light snowfall set in above approximately 1200 m.

Fresh snow

Sottoceneri: only a few centimeters.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +4 °C in northwestern regions and -3 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds in northern regions were blowing at moderate to strong velocity, in southern Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps at light to moderate strength, from the south;
- In the classic foehn-influenced valleys of the north, moderate-to-strong velocity southerly foehn winds prevailed.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 4.3.2017

In northern regions on Saturday it will be sunny to begin with, accompanied by storm-strength southerly winds. During the course of the day in southern regions, skies will become heavily overcast to an increasing extent and the snowfall will spread over the Main Alpine Ridge into the bordering regions. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, skies will be heavily overcast and there will be bouts of heavy snowfall from region to region, many of which will be intensive. The snowfall level will descend during the course of the day down from 1500 m to approximately 1000 m. In the upper Alpine valleys of Ticino the snowfall will extend down to low lying areas.

Fresh snow

- Upper Valais part of the Main Alpine Ridge from Monte Rosa region into the Binntal, northwestern Ticino: 30 to 50 cm; in the southern Simplon region and in Bedretto as much as 70 cm;
- remaining parts of Main Alpine Ridge, remaining sectors of the southern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm;
- in the regions further to the north, only a few centimeters.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in western and southern regions, -1 °C; in eastern regions, +3 °C.

Wind

- Winds at high altitudes will be southerly, blowing at strong to storm strength; in northern regions foehn storms will extend down into the valleys.
- In Ticino, moderate to strong velocity southerly winds will prevail, also extending down to low lying areas.

Outlook through Monday, 6.3.2017

Sunday

In northern regions, conditions will be variable, accompanied by snow showers above approximately 1000 m, and including sunny intervals. The southerly winds are expected to slacken off. In southern regions the snowfall will come to an end and during the course of the day skies will continually brighten. The danger of naturally triggered avalanches will diminish. However, the overall situation will continue to be treacherous for skiers and freeriders undertaking tours in outlying terrain.

Monday

In northern regions skies will be overcast and snowfall is anticipated above approximately 700 m. Strong-velocity westerly winds will arise. In southern regions it will be partly sunny. Avalanche danger might increase somewhat from region to region in the north and in the west; in southern regions, avalanche danger will decrease.