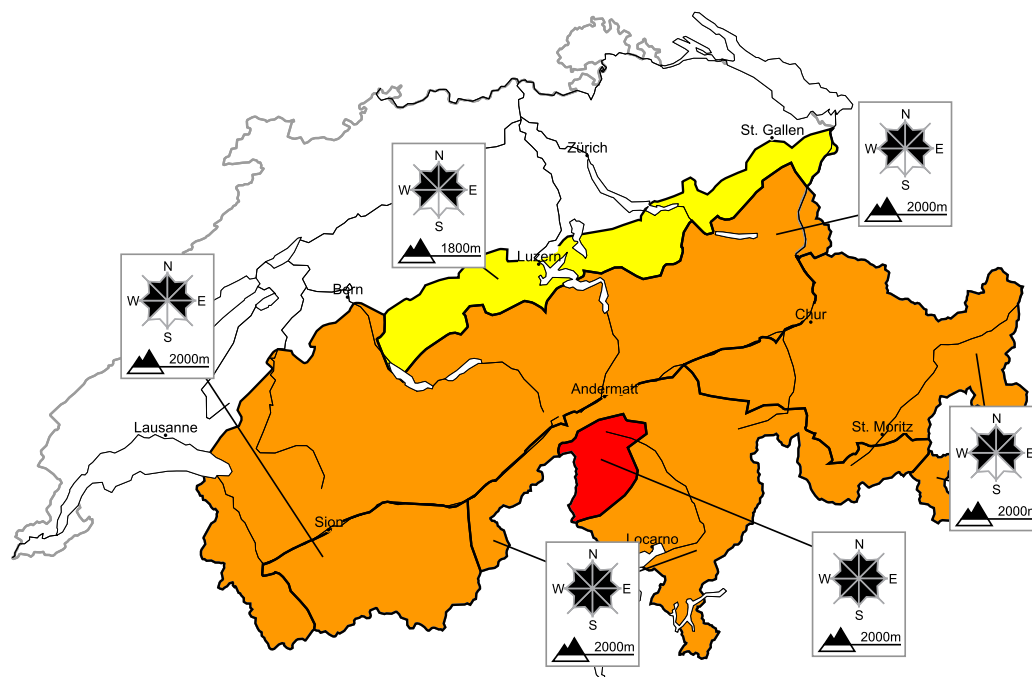


## In the south a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 5.3.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 5.3.2017, 17:00

### Avalanche danger

updated on 5.3.2017, 08:00



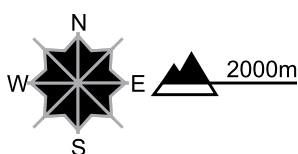
region A

**Level 4, high**



#### Fresh snow and snow drifts

##### Avalanche prone locations



##### Danger description

More snow than expected has fallen. In particular at elevated altitudes sometimes large snow drift accumulations have formed. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Small and medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. The conditions are very critical for ski touring, freeriding and snowshoe hiking.

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**



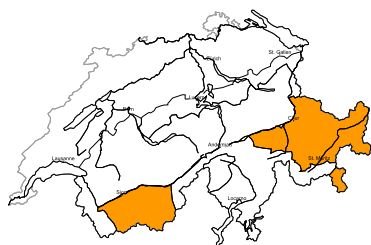
**Danger description**

As a consequence of the wind further snow drift accumulations will form. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. 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.

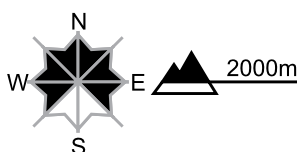
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



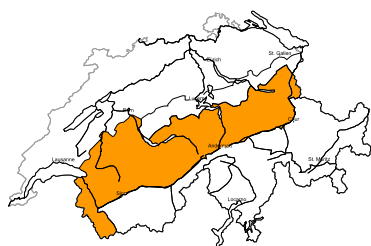
**Danger description**

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations can in some cases be released easily. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. In particular on shady slopes avalanches can penetrate even deep layers and reach a dangerous size. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection, in particular on shady slopes. Snow drift accumulations are to be assessed critically.

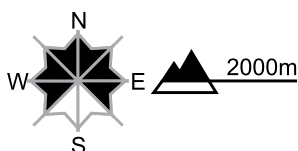
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Somewhat older snow drift accumulations can in some cases be released easily especially at their margins. They are covered with fresh snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can in isolated cases reach dangerously large size. As the day progresses further snow drift accumulations will form. These are rather small but prone to triggering. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Snow drift accumulations are to be assessed with care and prudence.

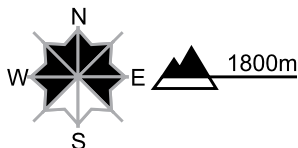
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



## Snow drifts

### Avalanche prone locations



### Danger description

Somewhat older snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They can be released in isolated cases especially at their margins. As the day progresses further snow drift accumulations will form. These are rather small but prone to triggering. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

**Danger levels**



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



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## Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.3.2017, 17:00

### Snowpack

Storm-strength southerly winds transported the snow on Friday and Saturday to north-facing slopes, from region to region as far down as the treeline. Massive, wide-ranging snowdrift accumulations were formed in western and northern regions more than anywhere else, which in many places are prone to triggering. Predominantly small-to-medium sized avalanches have already triggered, in some cases naturally. Particularly in the regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, the rapid stabilisation of the layers of snowdrift can be expected.

In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, the snowdrift accumulations were deposited on top of a thin old-snowpack surface which, particularly on shady slopes at altitudes of 2200-2800 m, contain strikingly weak layers. In these regions, avalanches can fracture down to these weak layers, entrain the entire snowpack and thereby grow to dangerously large size.

### Observed weather on Saturday, 4.3.2017

In southern regions, skies were overcast and there was snowfall registered on the Main Alpine Ridge from the Valais to the Bernina Pass and southwards therefrom. On the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, it was sunny during the morning; subsequently, skies became overcast and precipitation followed.

#### Fresh snow

By Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered, with the snowfall level generally at 1200 to 1400 m:

- in the Simplon region along the Italian border, in Bedretto valley, in the upper Leventina and in the upper valleys of Maggia: 30 to 50 cm;
- in the bordering Upper Valais part of the Main Alpine Ridge, in the remaining parts of the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps and in the Rheinwald region: 10 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; or else it remained dry.

#### Temperature

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

#### Wind

Winds in the mountains were southerly, blowing at storm strength; in northern regions, stormy foehn winds were blowing down to low lying areas, subsequently slackening off during the afternoon.

### Weather forecast through Sunday, 5.3.2017

In northern regions skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by a small amount of precipitation on Saturday night in particular. During the daytime on Sunday the skies are expected to brighten in western regions more than anywhere else, before new cloud cover moves in during the course of the afternoon and some precipitation sets in. In southern regions, precipitation is also anticipated, particularly during the night on Saturday. During the daytime on Sunday, it will be partly dry, accompanied by bright skies.

#### Fresh snow

The snowfall level will be at 1000 m. By Sunday evening, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are anticipated:

- northern and central Ticino, Moesano: 20 to 30 cm, most of which is expected to fall in the upper valleys of Maggia and in the Bedretto valley;
- in the furthestmost western part of Lower Valais, in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, as well as in the Bernina region: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, less; or else it will remain completely dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -4 °C.

#### Wind

Winds in the mountains will be southwesterly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity, shifting to westerly in the afternoon and blowing at storm velocity.

**Outlook** through Tuesday, 7.3.2017

In northern regions skies will be heavily overcast on both days, accompanied by precipitation. The snowfall level will be below 1000 m. In the furthestmost southern regions it will be rather sunny, on Tuesday accompanied by strong northerly foehn wind. The avalanche danger is expected to increase somewhat over widespread areas.