As a consequence of fresh snow and wind a critical avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area

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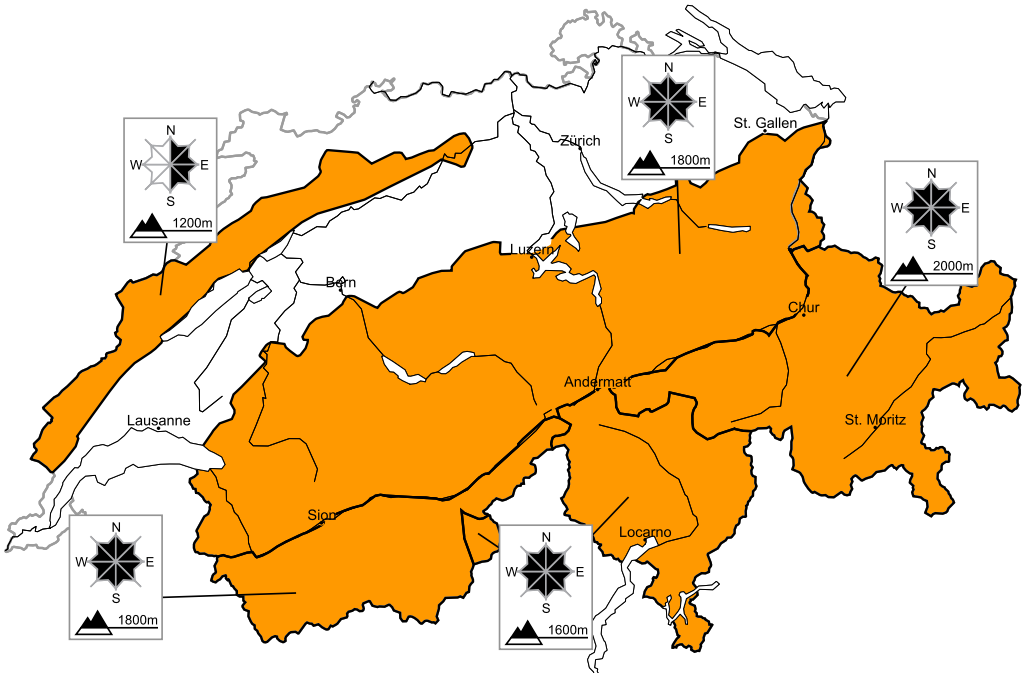
Avalanche danger

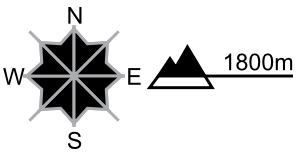
updated on 7.3.2017, 08:00



region A | **Level 3, considerable**

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind extensive snow drift accumulations will form. They are in some cases quite large and prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Natural avalanches are to be expected, including large ones in isolated cases. The off-piste conditions are critical. Transportation routes situated at higher altitudes can be endangered.

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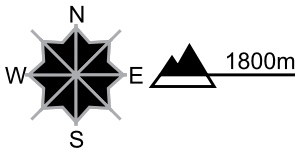
region B — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

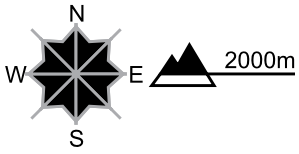
As a consequence of fresh snow and wind further snow drift accumulations will form. The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily. Natural avalanches are to be expected. In particular on shady slopes avalanches can penetrate even deep layers and reach a dangerous size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

The conditions are critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities. Transportation routes situated at higher altitudes can be endangered.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

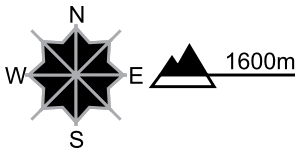
As a consequence of fresh snow and wind further snow drift accumulations will form. The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily. Natural avalanches are to be expected. In particular on shady slopes avalanches can penetrate even deep layers and reach a dangerous size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

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

region D — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes storm force wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. They will form in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Small and medium-sized natural avalanches are possible. The conditions are critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided.

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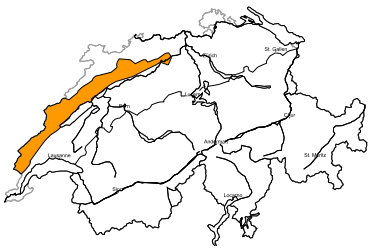
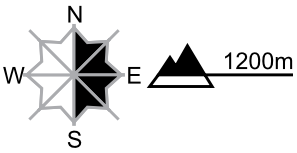
region E

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind snow drift accumulations will form. They are mostly small but prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in particular in very steep terrain.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 6.3.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

The fresh and drifted snow that has been deposited in sometimes large quantities in recent days in Valais, on the southern flank of the Alps, in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, and in the western parts of Grisons, are gradually settling and bonding. On the surface, however, the more recent snow remains loose and transportable in most cases. These layers are lying on top of snow drift accumulations that formed during the foehn period at the end of last week, which are compacted in many cases. On the northern flank of the Alps in particular, they remain prone to triggering only to a limited extent and mostly by large additional loads.
In the inneralpine regions of both Valais and Grisons these layers are lying on a thin old snowpack in which distinct weak layers exist, especially on shady slopes between 2200 and 2800 m. In these regions, avalanches can penetrate the weak old snowpack and reach a dangerously large size. The daily release of avalanches by persons in these regions bears witness to the persistence of a critical situation.

Observed weather on Monday, 6.3.2017

Precipitation during the night gave way to dry but mostly cloudy weather over a wide area during the day. Precipitation had already recommenced in the west by the late morning.

Fresh snow

The following amounts of snow fell in the period from Sunday afternoon until Monday afternoon:
· Some areas of Lower Valais, northern Ticino and the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps: 20 to 40 cm
· Elsewhere: 10 to 20 cm, but less than 10 cm in the eastern Bernese Oberland and Lower Engadine

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -5 °C in the north and -3 °C in the south

Wind

From the west:
· During the night in the north and west, strong to storm force, otherwise light to moderate
· During the day mostly light to moderate

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 7.3.2017

It will be very cloudy and snow will fall down to low altitudes; the heaviest precipitation will occur on the northern flank of the Alps, in Lower Valais and in northern Grisons. It will be mostly sunny with a strong foehn wind from the north only in central and southern Ticino.

Fresh snow

In the period until Tuesday evening the following amounts of snow will fall:
· Western Lower Valais, regions north of a line between the Rhone and Rhine: 30 to 50 cm, but up to 70 cm from the eastern Bernese Oberland to the Glarus Alps
· Remaining parts of Valais, of the Gotthard region and of northern Grisons: 20 to 30 cm, but less in the Visp valleys
· Central Grisons, Engadine: 10 to 20 cm
· Rest of Ticino, Grisons southern valleys: less than 10 cm and dry in the far south

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -7 °C in the north and -5 °C in the south

Wind

Moderate to strong, even storm force in the central and eastern parts of the main Alpine ridge and to the south, from the northwest

Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 7 March 2017

Outlook through Thursday, 9.3.2017

Wednesday will be fairly sunny in the west. In the north it will be cloudy with bright intervals and some precipitation in the morning in particular. The southern flank of the Alps will be mostly sunny. On Thursday in the east precipitation will fall at times, in particular in the morning. It will be fairly sunny in the west, and the mostly sunny weather will persist on the southern flank of the Alps. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.