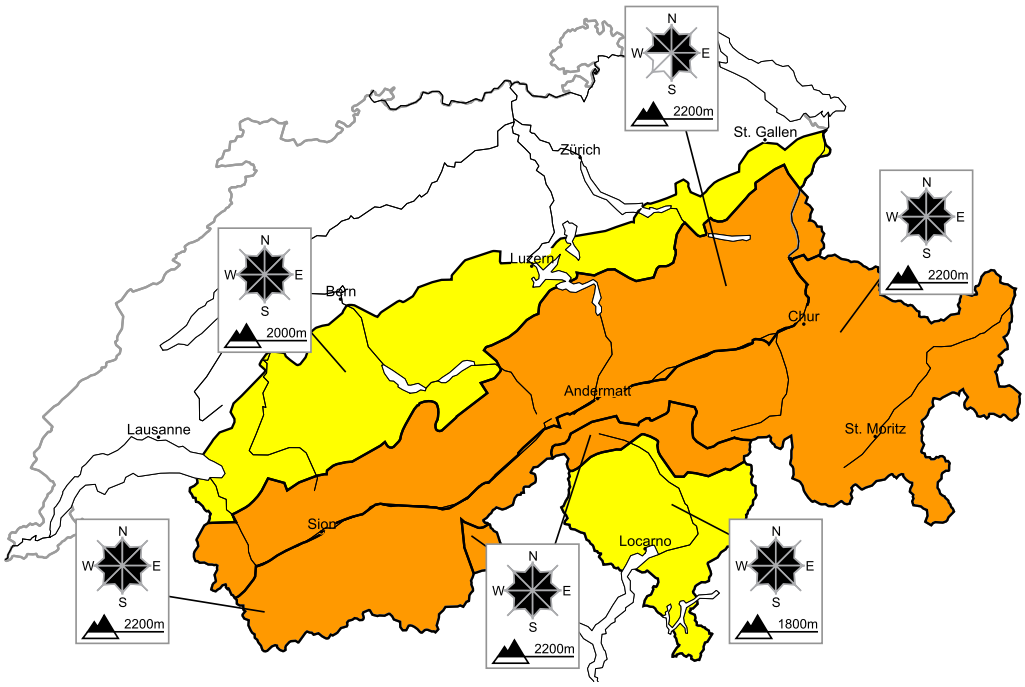
Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Snow drifts and weakly bonded old snow require caution

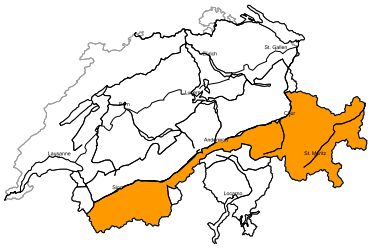
Edition: 11.3.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 11.3.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 11.3.2017, 08:00

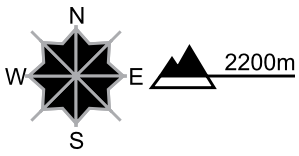


region A | **Level 3, considerable**



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Over a wide area various layers of snow drift accumulations are lying on a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. They can penetrate deep layers and reach large size in isolated cases. Remote triggering is possible. Whumpfing 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 caution and restraint.

Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are possible as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

Danger levels 1 low | 2 moderate | 3 consider. | 4 high | 5 very high

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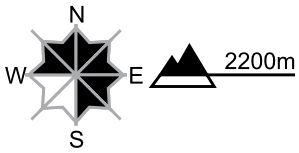
region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. The somewhat older snow drift accumulations can be released by large loads at their margins in particular. In isolated cases avalanches can penetrate even deep layers and reach large size. Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended. The current avalanche situation calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

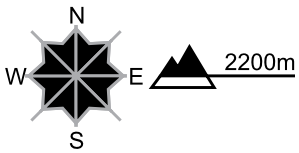
Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are possible as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The large surface-area snow drift accumulations of the last few days are prone to triggering. They are to be avoided as far as possible. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

On very steep sunny slopes small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are possible as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

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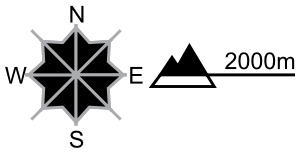
region D — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



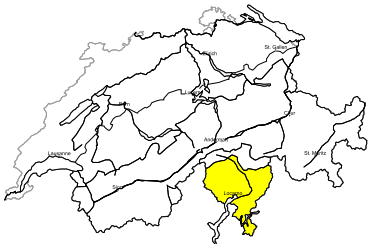
Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are rather small but prone to triggering. Older snow drift accumulations can be released, especially by large additional loads,. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

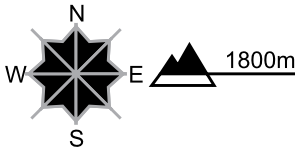
On very steep sunny slopes small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are possible as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

region E — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are rather small but prone to triggering. Older snow drift accumulations can be released, especially by large additional loads,. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Careful route selection is important.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

On very steep sunny slopes mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are possible as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.3.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of the new fallen snow and the temporarily higher snowfall level, a great many avalanches triggered all week long, some of them large-sized.
The thick layers of fresh fallen and freshly drifted snow are stabilising increasingly in the major areas or precipitation north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line more than anywhere else. However, the more recently formed snowdrift accumulations at high altitude will remain prone to triggering in all regions.
More deeply embedded inside the snowpack, on shady slopes between 2200 and 2800 m more than anywhere else, weakened layers consisting of faceted-crystal snow are still a threat. These weak layers in southern Valais and in the inneralpine regions of Grisons have been blanketed over by a very shallow layer only, which leaves them prone to triggering. North of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, fractures down deep in the old-snowpack have become less likely.
As a result of rising temperatures and rainfall, the snowpack became moist up to nearly 2500 m on Friday, and thoroughly wet at intermediate altitudes. A night of clear skies on Friday will stabilise the snowpack which below approximately 2500 m is now wet over widespread areas. During the course of the day on Friday, wet-snow avalanches are possible on sunny slopes in isolated cases.

Observed weather on Friday, 10.3.2017

On Thursday night in northern and eastern regions, there was additional snowfall. The snowfall level descended to below 1500 m. In the early hours of Friday morning there were still residual clouds. In the other regions of Switzerland it was predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday morning on the northern flank of the Alps from the Haslital to Liechtenstein, in northern Grisons and in the Lower Engadine there was an additional 10 to 20 cm of fresh fallen snow registered.
Overall between Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning, the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:

- northern Goms and Grimsel region, northern Alpine Ridge from Titlis to Liechtenstein, northern Grisons, Lower Engadine north of the Inn: 50 to 80 cm;
- northern Alpine Ridge from the Wildstrubel to Titlis, remaining parts of Goms, the parts of Grisons bordering the major areas of precipitation and the remaining parts of the Lower Engadine: 30 to 50 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: 15 to 30 cm; in the furthermost western regions, less; in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri it remained dry.

The cited amounts of fresh fallen snow apply to the zones above approximately 2200 m, since the snowfall level over widespread areas lay between 1500 and 2000 m, in the Valais and the Engadine even higher intermittently.

Temperature

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

Wind

- Winds were blowing at moderate-to-strong velocity in the central and eastern sections of the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, intermittently reaching storm-strength, from northerly directions.
- In the other regions of Switzerland winds were blowing at light to moderate strength from northerly directions.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 11.3.2017

Following a night of clear skies it will be predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +5 °C in western regions and +2 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

- Winds at high altitudes will be northerly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity, particularly during the night.
- In other regions of Switzerland winds will be northerly, blowing at light to moderate strength.

Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 11 March 2017

Outlook through Monday, 13.3.2017

On Sunday in southern regions and in the inneralpine zones it will be sunny for the most part, in the other regions partly overcast. On Monday it will be predominantly sunny. Temperatures are expected to decrease slightly. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will diminish, but only very gradually in southern Valais and in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, due to the poor structuring of the snowpack. The danger of wet-snow avalanches is expected to increase somewhat during the course of each day as a result of the solar radiation.