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

Edition: 12.3.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 12.3.2017, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 12.3.2017, 08:00



region A

## Level 3, considerable



## Old snow, snow drifts

### Avalanche prone locations



#### **Danger description**

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of last week are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. They can penetrate deep layers and reach large size. Remote triggering is possible. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. 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 experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

## Wet avalanches as day progresses

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





## region B



## Level 3, considerable

## Snow drifts, old snow



#### Danger description

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. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

## Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized 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 in some cases still prone to triggering. They are to be avoided as far as possible. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. 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

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

## region D



## Level 2, moderate

## Snow drifts

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### **Danger description**

The somewhat 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 recommended.

## Wet avalanches as day progresses

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







region F

Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts



#### **Danger description**

The more recent snow drift accumulations can still be released in some cases. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches are rather small. Careful route selection is important.

## Wet avalanches as day progresses

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

## Level 1, low

## Old snow

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in extremely steep terrain above approximately 2000 m. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

## Wet avalanches as day progresses

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







## Snowpack and weather

updated on 11.3.2017, 17:00

## Snowpack

North of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, the fresh fallen and freshly drifted layers of snow which added up during the course of the week are stabilising to an increasing degree. Nevertheless, the snowdrift accumulations which were brought about more recently at high altitudes remain prone to triggering to a certain extent in all regions of Switzerland. These drifted masses are largest on the Main Alpine Ridge from Goms into Val Müstair.

More deeply embedded inside the snowpack, on shady slopes between 2200 and 2800 m more than anywhere else, weak layers consisting of faceted-crystal snow are still a threat. In southern Valais and in the inneralpine regions of Grisons these weakened layers 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 to deeper layers inside the old-snowpack have become less likely. Below approximately 2000m the snow cover is thoroughly wet. At those altitudes the snowpack tends to stabilise during the night. During the course of the day, and as the melt-freeze crust softens and melts on sunny slopes, wet-snow avalanches subsequently become possible.

#### Observed weather on Saturday, 11.3.2017

Following a night of clear skies, it was sunny for the most part.

#### **Fresh snow**

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +6 °C in western regions, +4 °C in southern regions and +1 °C in eastern regions.

#### Wind

Winds on the northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge were northerly during the night, blowing at moderate to strong velocity; in the other regions of Switzerland blowing at light to moderate strength.

### Weather forecast through Sunday, 12.3.2017

During the night there will be high altitude clouds in western regions more than anywhere else. In the other regions of Switzerland skies will generally be clear. During the daytime in western regions and in the Valais, it will be intermittently sunny accompanied by high-altitude clouds. In eastern regions it will be predominantly sunny.

#### Fresh snow

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +2 °C.

#### Wind

Winds at high altitudes in Grisons and in Ticino will be blowing from northerly directions at moderate strength during the night, intermittently also at strong velocity.

#### Outlook through Tuesday, 14.3.2017

On Monday it will be quite sunny and somewhat cooler. On Tuesday it will be sunny by and large and become somewhat milder again. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to decrease; in southern Valais and in the inneralpine Regions of Grisons only very gradually due to the weak snowpack structuring. The danger of wet-snow avalanches is expected to increase somewhat during the course of each day as a result of solar radiation.

