Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 15 March 2017

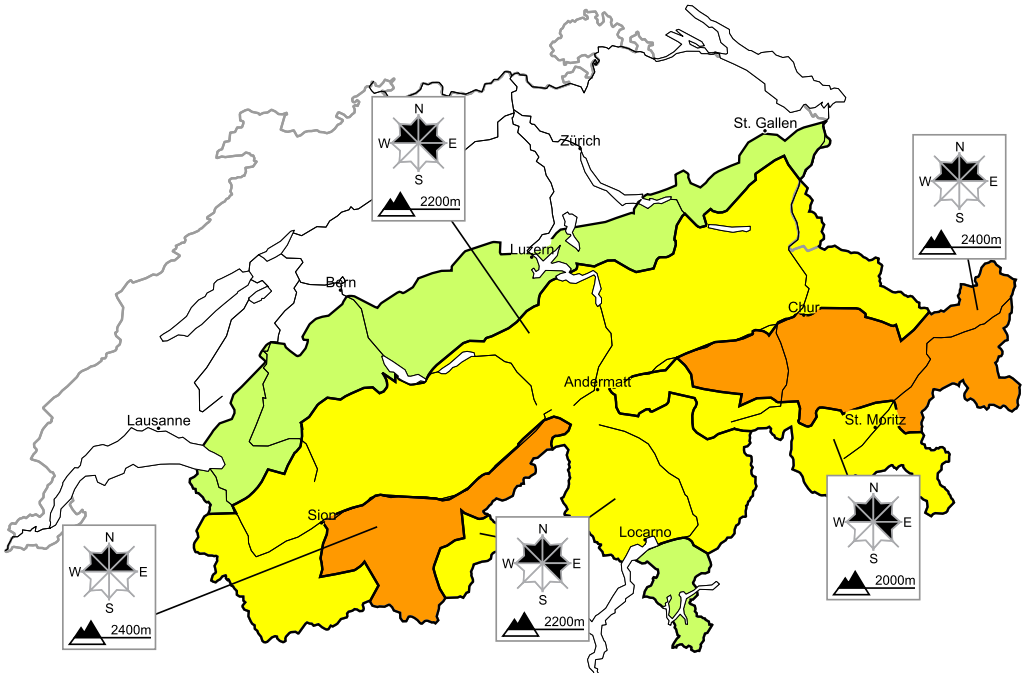
15.3.2017, 07:27

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

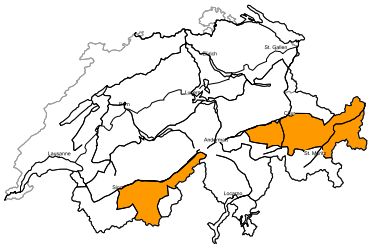
Edition: 15.3.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 15.3.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 15.3.2017, 08:00

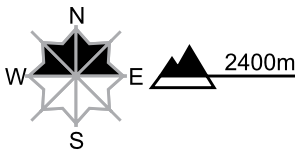


region A | **Level 3, considerable**



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in deep layers, even by small loads in isolated cases, in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Avalanches can reach dangerously large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

On very steep sunny slopes mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation. Medium-sized avalanches are possible in the west.

WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF
www.slf.ch

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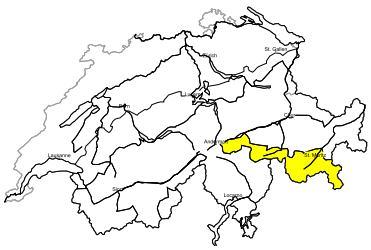
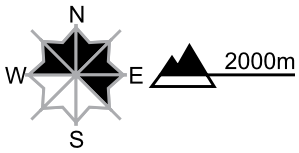
region B — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



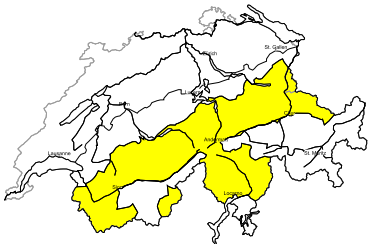
Danger description

Avalanches can be released in deep layers, even by small loads in isolated cases, in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. The avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Avalanches can in isolated cases reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

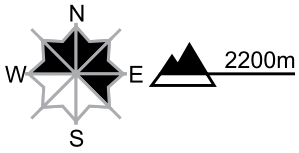
On very steep sunny slopes mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



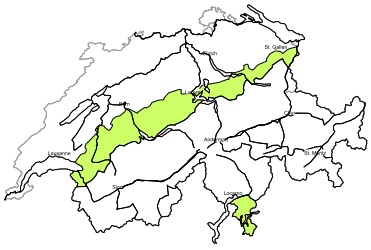
Danger description

Avalanches can be released in deep layers, in particular by large additional loads, especially in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. The avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Avalanches can in isolated cases reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

On very steep sunny slopes mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation. Medium-sized avalanches are possible in the west.

region D — Level 1, low



Favourable situation

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 14.3.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of the sometimes strong northeasterly wind at elevated altitudes, snow drift accumulations formed locally on Tuesday in particular adjacent to ridgelines along the main Alpine ridge. They are only small.
Faceted weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack in particular on shady slopes between 2200 m and 2800 m. These weak layers remain too near the surface and prone to triggering in particular in southern Valais and the inneralpine regions of Grisons. North of a line between the Rhone and Rhine, fractures are unlikely to occur in deep layers of the snowpack. Here the snowpack has already bonded quite well with last week's deep layers of fresh and drifted snow.
The snowpack is moist all the way through below approximately 2000 m, and the surface is moist up to more than 2500 m on steep south facing slopes. Clear skies during the night will increase the stability of the moist snowpack. As the day progresses wet snow avalanches are to be expected on steep sunny slopes as the freeze-melt crust melts.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 14.3.2017

After a clear night, it was sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between +5 °C in the west and south, and 0 °C in the east

Wind

From the north:

- Strong at times in the central part of the main Alpine ridge
- Otherwise light to moderate

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 15.3.2017

After a clear night, it will be mostly sunny in the mountains despite occasional high-altitude cloudbanks in the south in particular.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between +7 °C in the west and south, and +1 °C in the east

Wind

Veering from northeasterly to northerly in the morning

- In the south and east: moderate and locally strong at elevated altitudes, reaching down into the valleys as a northerly foehn wind in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps; easing as the day progresses
- In the west: mostly light

Outlook through Friday, 17.3.2017

Thursday

After a clear night, the weather will be sunny with light winds. The zero degree level will be approximately 3000 m in the south and west, and a little lower in the east. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease, but only slowly in southern Valais and the inneralpine regions of Grisons because of the poor bonding of the snowpack. The danger of wet snow avalanches will increase during the day under the influence of solar radiation and daytime warming, in particular in the western and southern regions.

Friday

After a clear night, it will be sunny at first. In the afternoon cloud will build up from the north, accompanied by a strong and freshening westerly wind. It will remain sunny in the south. Temperatures will fall a little. The danger of dry avalanches will change very little. The danger of wet snow avalanches will increase during the day.