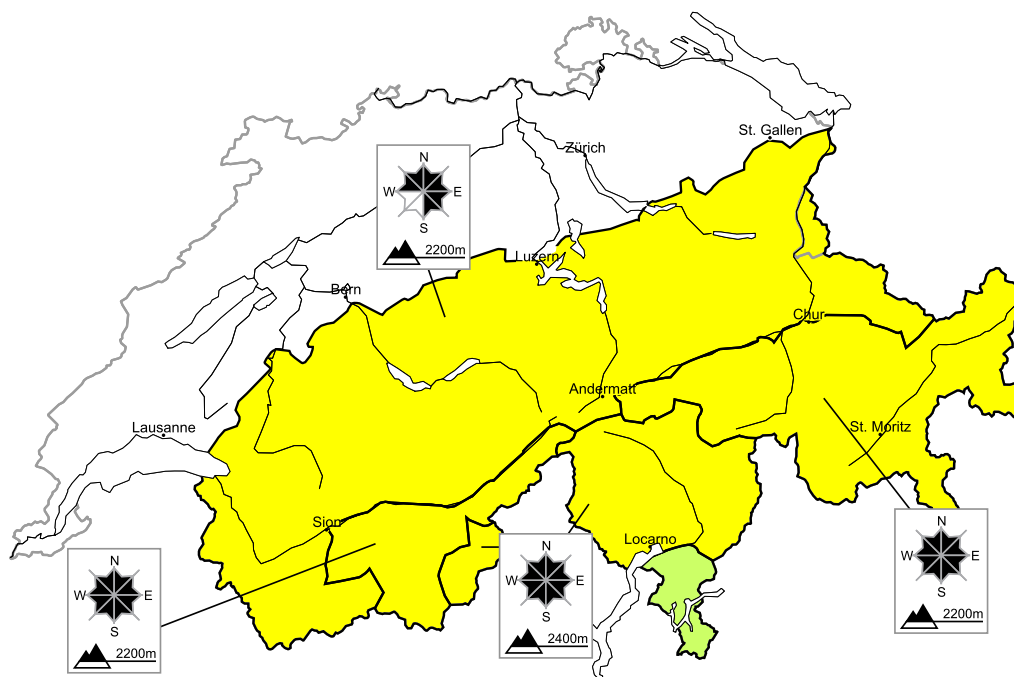


As the day progresses as a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind there will be an increase in the avalanche danger

Edition: 18.3.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 18.3.2017, 17:00

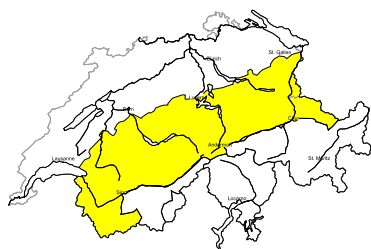
Avalanche danger

updated on 18.3.2017, 08:00



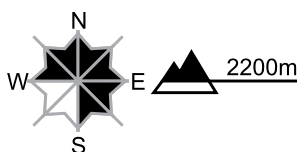
region A

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The avalanche conditions in the morning are generally favourable. As the day progresses snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. The avalanche danger will increase during the day. In the afternoon danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached on the northern Alpine ridge from the Schilthorn to the Säntis.

Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in deep layers, mostly by large additional loads. This applies in particular on steep, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes in little used backcountry terrain. These avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Careful route selection is recommended.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

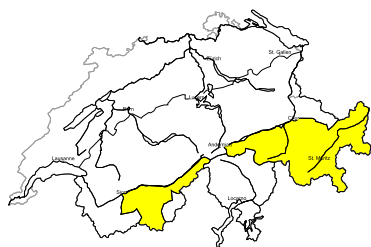
5 very high



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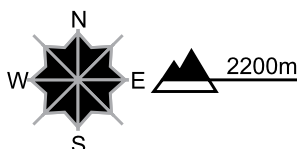
region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in deep layers, even by small loads in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes in little used backcountry terrain. Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released also on very steep south facing slopes.

The avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Avalanches can reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection. Steep shady slopes are to be traversed by snow sport participants one at a time.

Snow drifts

At elevated altitudes small snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

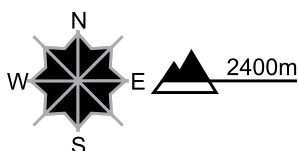
region C

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

At elevated altitudes clearly visible snow drift accumulations will form. These are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised also in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

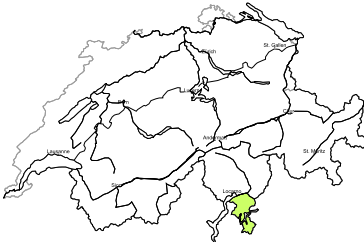
Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular on steep, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes. These avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Careful route selection is recommended.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep slopes small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day.

region D

Level 1, low



Wet avalanches

A clear night will be followed in the early morning by favourable conditions. As the day progresses individual wet snow slides are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.3.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

In southern regions, predominantly favourable conditions prevail in the early morning hours following a night of clear skies. Subsequently the dangers of wet-snow avalanches will increase during the course of the day. In all the other regions of Switzerland, the snowpack surface cools only slightly during the nights when skies are (frequently) overcast. During the daytime, snowfall and winds on the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else will give rise to snowdrift accumulations.

More deeply embedded inside the snow cover, particularly on shady slopes above 2200 m, however also on south-facing slopes, weak layers consisting of faceted-crystal snow exist. These weakened layers are currently blanketed over by only very shallow snow in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, more than anywhere else, and thus, are still prone to triggering in places, even by the weight of skiers. North of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, the snow cover has been sufficiently blanketed by overlying layers of fresher-fallen snow to an extent that skiers and freeriders are currently unlikely to trigger it.

Observed weather on Friday, 17.3.2017

Following a night of clear skies, it was sunny and mild. During the afternoon in northern regions, cloud cover moved in.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +4 °C in northern regions and +8 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds were westerly to northwesterly, blowing at moderate strength for the most part.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 18.3.2017

Following a night of partially overcasts skies, it will be heavily overcast during the daytime. On Friday night above approximately 2000 m in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. During the daytime on Saturday, precipitation is anticipated, over widespread areas to start with, most of which is expected in the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland as far as the Alpstein. The snowfall level will initially be at approximately 1400 m, then ascend again during the course of the afternoon; in western regions up as far as about 2000 m from place to place. In southern regions it will be predominantly sunny the entire time, and remain dry.

Fresh snow

By Saturday evening above approximately 2000 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are anticipated:

- northern Alpine Ridge from the Bluemlisalp to the Reuss: 20 to 30 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland as far as Liechtenstein: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less than 10 cm; in southern regions, in central Grisons and in the Upper Engadine, it will generally remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in northern regions and +4 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be westerly to northwesterly, blowing at strong velocity, in some places reaching storm strength.

Outlook through Monday, 20.3.2017

Sunday

During the night, precipitation will persist ongoingly over widespread areas, most of which is expected on the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland as far as Liechtenstein. During the daytime, light precipitation will persist only in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps. During the afternoon, bright intervals are anticipated in western regions more than anywhere else. In the Valais it will become rather sunny. Winds will continue blowing at strong velocity from northwesterly directions. In the furthestmost southern regions it will be quite sunny.

Avalanche danger will increase over widespread areas during the night, significantly so in the major areas of precipitation. During the daytime, avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.

Monday

It will be predominantly sunny and mild. The zero-degree altitude in western regions will ascend to 3000 m by evening. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will diminish. In northern regions more than anywhere else, wet-snow avalanches can be expected as a result of solar radiation and rising temperatures during the course of the day.