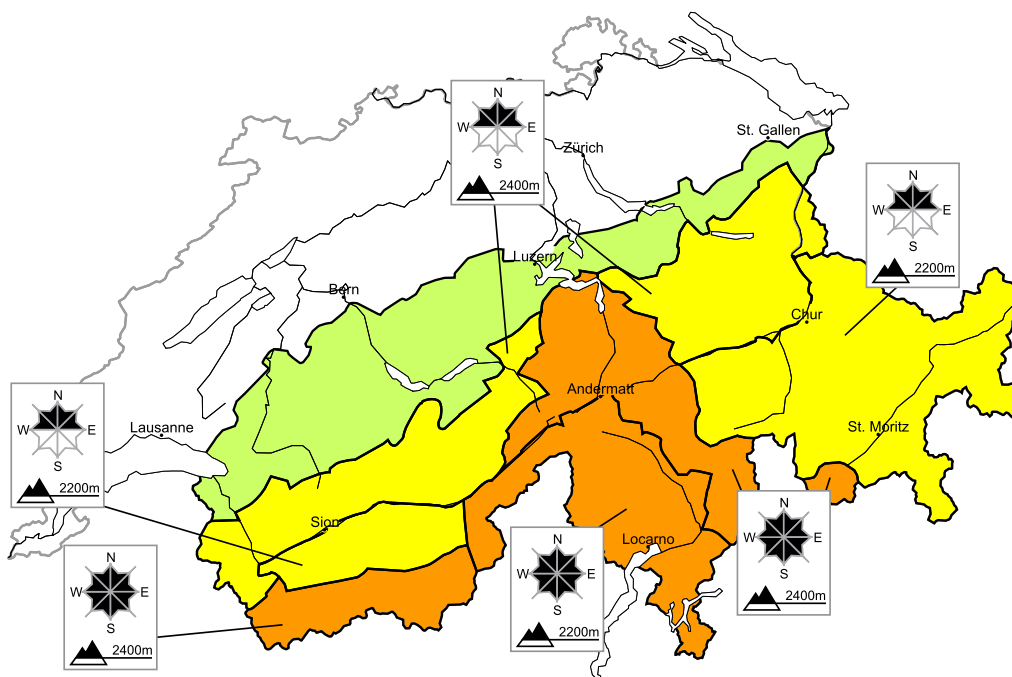


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Snow drifts and weakly bonded old snow require caution

Edition: 25.3.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 25.3.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 25.3.2017, 08:00



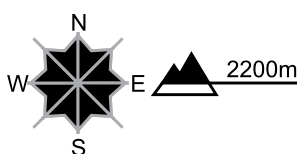
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. Single backcountry tourers or freeriders can release avalanches. These can in isolated cases release deeper layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on west, north and east facing slopes. The conditions are precarious for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Small to medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2200 m.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

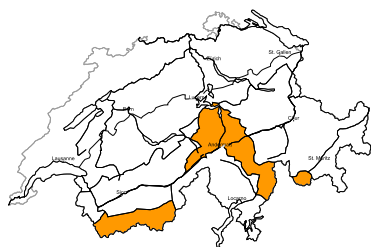
5 very high



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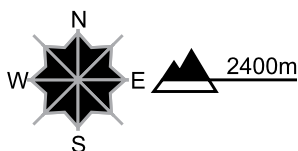
region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

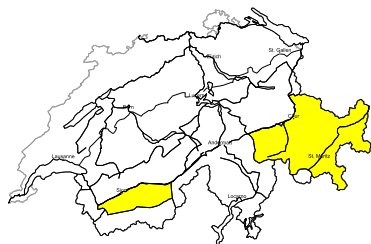
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. These can in some cases penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on west, north and east facing slopes. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Small to medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m, especially on very steep east, south and west facing slopes.

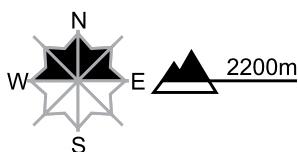
region C

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

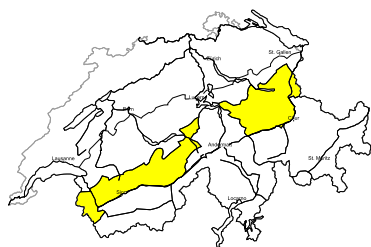
Avalanches can be released in deep layers, even by small loads in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes in little used backcountry terrain. These avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Avalanches can reach medium size. Very steep slopes are to be traversed by snow sport participants one at a time. Fresh snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. These are mostly only small. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

In the afternoon as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation there will be an increase in the danger of wet and full-depth avalanches to level 3 (considerable). Small and medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m, especially on very steep east, south and west facing slopes.

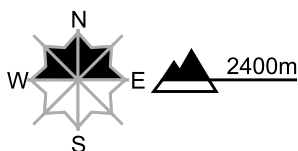
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

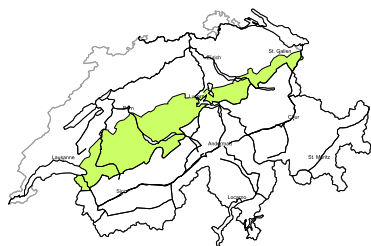
The mostly small snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

In the afternoon as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation there will be an increase in the danger of wet and full-depth avalanches to level 3 (considerable). Small and medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m, especially on very steep east, south and west facing slopes.

region E

Level 1, low



Snow drifts

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular on extremely steep shady slopes, especially at high altitude. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

The danger of full-depth and wet avalanches will increase during the day, reaching danger level 2 (moderate). Mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, especially on very steep east, south and west facing slopes.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 24.3.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

In the major areas of precipitation the new fallen and newly drifted layers of snow from this week's precipitation are stabilising. As a result of snowfall levels which were intermittently at high altitudes, a great many avalanches were triggered which to some extent swept the entire snowpack away. At high altitudes as a result of strong-velocity southerly winds, snowdrift accumulations have formed which are prone to triggering.

More deeply embedded inside the snow cover, particularly on west, north and east-facing slopes above approximately 2200 m, weakened layers consisting of faceted-crystal snow also threaten. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, these weak layers are blanketed over by only shallow snow and in some places can be triggered by skiers or freeriders.

On north-facing slopes the snow cover is thoroughly wet up to approximately 2000 m; in the western regions of Switzerland up to approximately 2500 m. On steep, south-facing slopes the snowpack is thoroughly wet up to nearly 3000 m except in regions with new snow. In steep avalanche pathways which have not yet discharged, wet-snow avalanches continue to be possible which, in some cases, could sweep along the entire snowpack.

Observed weather on Friday, 24.3.2017

In the Valais part of the Main Alpine Ridge and in southern regions, nocturnal skies were heavily overcast and above approximately 1800 m there was 10 to 30 cm of fresh fallen snow registered. During the daytime skies were heavily overcast, accompanied by light precipitation from place to place.

In the remaining regions of Switzerland, nocturnal skies were partially clear, more than anywhere else in eastern regions. During the daytime skies were heavily overcast for the most part, accompanied by sunny intervals in northeastern regions more than anywhere else.

Fresh snow

Between Tuesday evening and Friday midday the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered above approximately 2200 m:

- Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon region to the San Bernardino Pass as well as southwards therefrom: 60 to 100 cm; in western Ticino as much as 120 cm;
- remaining parts of the Main Alpine Ridge from the Binntal into Val Bregaglia, remaining sectors of the southern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of the Urner Alps: 40 to 60 cm;
- Lower Valais part of the Main Alpine Ridge, remaining parts of the central sector of the northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps, western Glarner Alps: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: 5 to 20 cm.

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds on the northern Alpine Ridge were blowing at moderate to strong velocity, intermittently reaching storm-strength, in other regions blowing at light to moderate strength, from southerly to southeasterly directions.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 25.3.2017

It will be predominantly sunny, accompanied by cloudbanks. In the southern Valais it will become increasingly overcast during the course of the day, accompanied by light snow showers above 2000 m during the afternoon.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +6 °C in northern regions and +3 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds on the northern Alpine Ridge and in general at high altitudes will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity, in other regions of Switzerland blowing at light to moderate strength, from southeasterly directions.

Outlook through Monday, 27.3.2017

Sunday

In the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps skies will be heavily overcast for the most part and a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. The snowfall level will descend to 1300 m. The danger of dry-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will diminish somewhat.

In southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will decrease. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will be subject to a daytime danger cycle.

Monday

On Monday it will be sunny by and large and temperatures are expected to rise again. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will decrease. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will be subject to a daytime danger cycle.