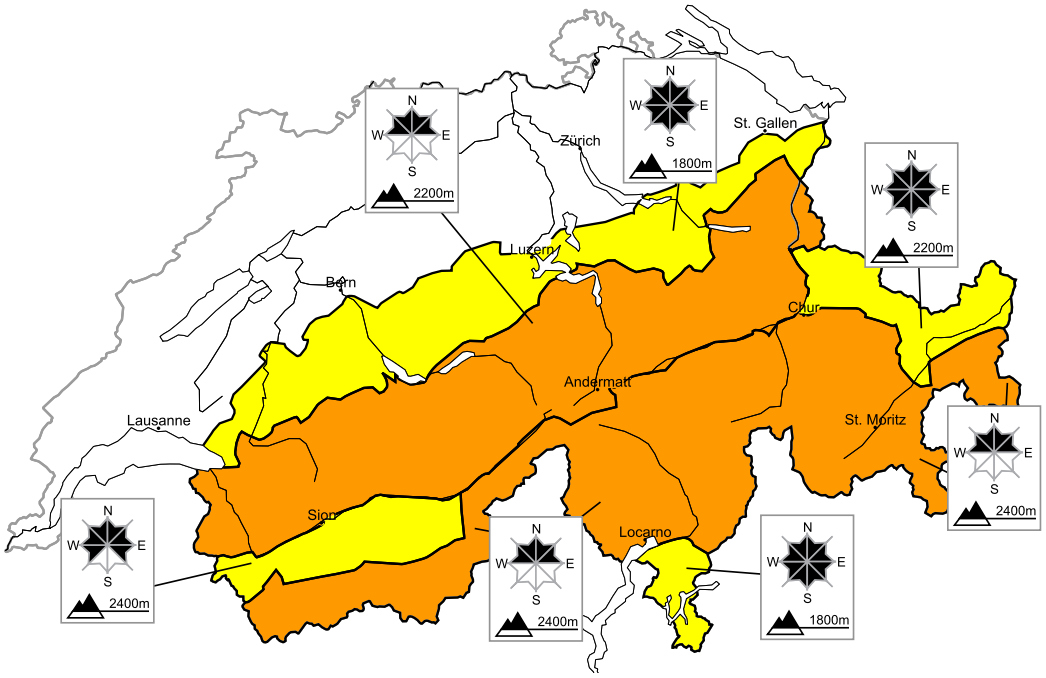
The conditions at elevated altitudes are wintry. Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 29.4.2017, 17:00 / Next update: 30.4.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

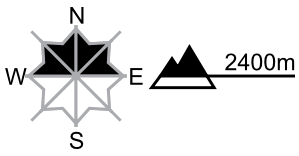
updated on 29.4.2017, 17:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. They can in some cases reach medium size.
Valais and Grisons: Additionally avalanches can penetrate deep layers. These avalanche prone locations are rare. They are to be found in particular on very steep north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

East, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2600 m: As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

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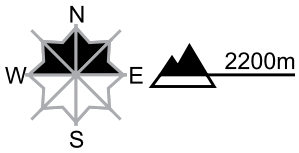
region B — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



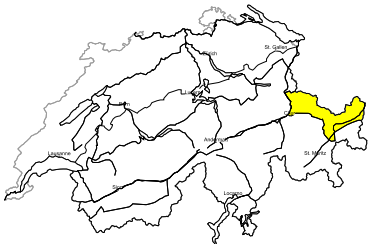
Danger description

The somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. They can in some cases reach medium size.
As a consequence of the foehn wind easily released snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be bypassed. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

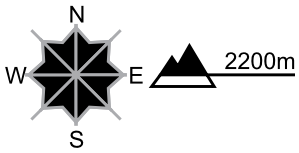
East, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2600 m: As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.
Additionally avalanches can be released in deep layers. These avalanche prone locations are very rare. They are to be found in particular on very steep north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

East, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2600 m: As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

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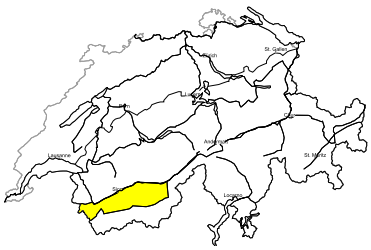
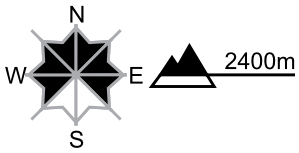
region D — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



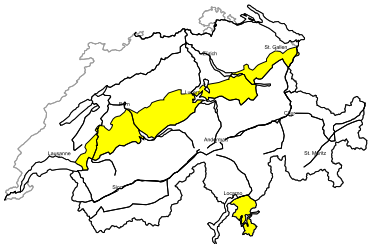
Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can be released easily. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.
Additionally avalanches can be released in deep layers. These avalanche prone locations are very rare. They are to be found in particular on very steep north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

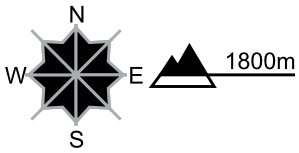
East, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2600 m: As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation mostly small moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

region E — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. They can be released, especially by large additional loads,. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

East, south and west facing slopes: As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation mostly small moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 29.4.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

The new fallen and newly drifted snow from the most recent period of precipitation is settling and consolidating. On very steep south-facing slopes the snow cover's uppermost layers are moist all the way up to altitudes of nearly 3000 m. In north-facing, deeply shaded terrain the snow has remained powdery up to high altitudes. From place to place, avalanches can be triggered even by the weight of one sole person. In isolated cases, avalanches on north-facing slopes can sweep away the entire snowpack when they fracture. This danger threatens particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons at altitudes between 2400 and 3000 m.
Wherever the snowpack was moistened, it subsequently freezes during nights of clear skies, then over widespread areas forms a breakable crust in all likelihood. During the daytime the crust softens and melts, and transforms to corn snow.
On east-, south- and west-facing slopes below approximately 2800 m, moist snowslides and avalanches can then be expected.

Observed weather on Saturday, 29.4.2017

On Friday night the ultimately light precipitation came to an end in northeastern regions and the cloud cover dispersed in the mountains. In the remaining regions of Switerland nocturnal skies were clear throughout the night. During the daytime on Saturday it was sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow

Just a few centimeters in northeastern regions.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the Valais, -3 °C in the remaining western and southern regions and -5 °C in northeastern regions.

Wind

Winds were predominantly light, intermittently blowing at moderate strength on the Main Alpine Ridge more than anywhere else, initially from northerly directions, then shifting to southerly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 30.4.2017

Skies on Saturday night will be clear in northern regions, only partially clear on the southern flank of the Alps. During the daytime on Sunday it will be relatively sunny in all regions of Switzerland to begin with. In the afternoon, cloud cover will move in and become dense on the southern flank of the Alps; in the remaining regions of Switzerland the cloud cover from the south will then intensify.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in northern regions and 0 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds in the mountains will be light to start with, then intensify to moderate strength during the course of the day, from southerly directions. In the Alpine valleys, brisk foehn winds will arise.

Avalanche bulletin through Sunday, 30 April 2017

Outlook through Tuesday, 2.5.2017

Monday

On Sunday night, the cloud cover will become denser from the south. In the furthermost eastern regions, the final foehn-induced bright intervals will be evident in the morning hours. In other regions of Switzerland skies will be heavily overcast for the most part during the daytime. Winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity in the mountains, then shifting to westerly to northwesterly during the day. Snowfall is anticipated above 1000 to 1500 m, most of which will fall in the Valais section of the Main Alpine Ridge and on the southern flank of the Alps The danger of dry-snow avalanches will increase somewhat in those regions more than anywhere else. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will diminish.

Tuesday

Skies will remain variably cloudy, accompanied by bright intervals and showers. Winds will slacken off significantly. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will gradually decrease. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will be subject to a slight daytime danger cycle.