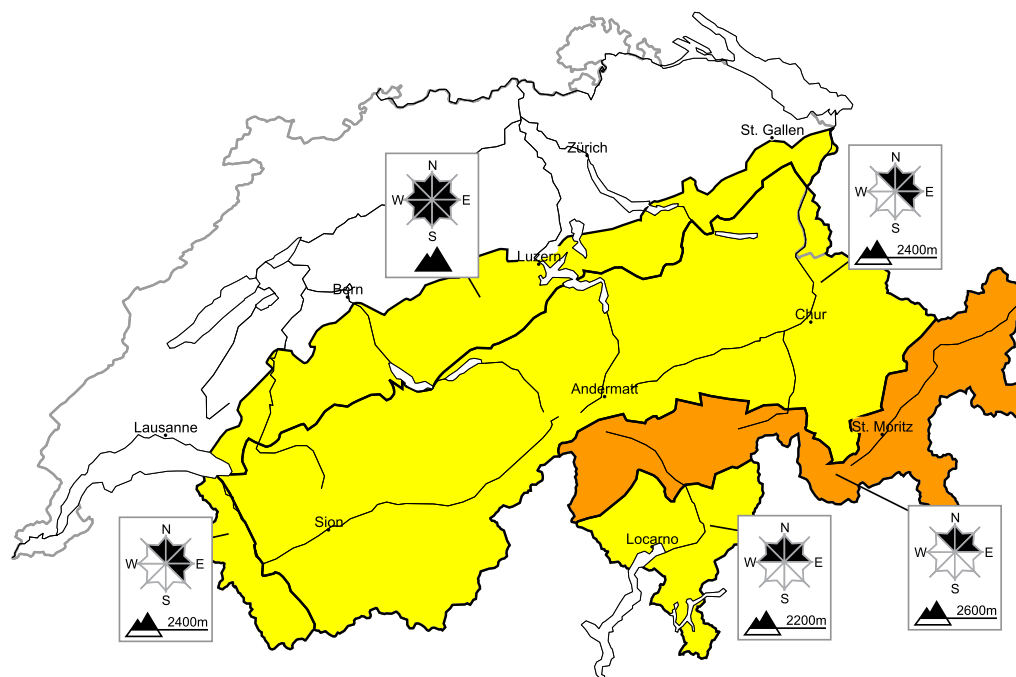


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Wet avalanches below approximately 2600 m

Edition: 5.5.2017, 17:00 / Next update: 6.5.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 5.5.2017, 17:00



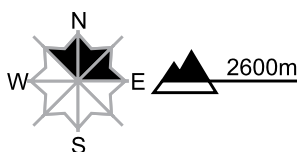
region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Dry avalanches can in particular be released in near-surface layers. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Fresh snow drift accumulations will form in particular adjacent to the ridge line. Single persons can release avalanches in some places, especially on very steep slopes. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized moist snow slides and avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2400 m.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



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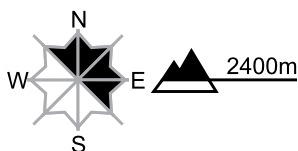
region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Dry avalanches can in some cases be released in near-surface layers. As a consequence of the strong wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. From midday as a consequence of the snowfall there will be an increase in the avalanche danger. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2600 m.

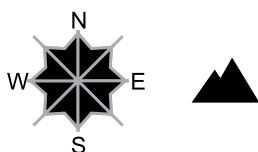
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the rain small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected. This applies in all aspects. Backcountry touring calls for meticulous route selection.

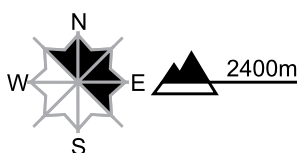
region D

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Dry avalanches can be released in near-surface layers. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. They are difficult to recognise. Careful route selection is recommended.

As the day progresses snow drift accumulations will form. This applies in particular on north facing slopes as well as adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain more frequent small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2600 m. This applies from the second half of the night.

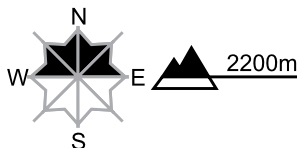
region E

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Dry avalanches can be released in near-surface layers. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. They are difficult to recognise. Careful route selection is recommended.

Wet avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m individual moist snow slides and avalanches are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 5.5.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

Both the layers of snow closest to the uppermost surface and the more freshly formed, generally small-sized snowdrift accumulations are in places still prone to triggering, on very steep north-facing slopes and in areas adjacent to ridgelines more than anywhere else. As a result of the strong southwesterly winds, snowdrift accumulations are forming anew, in high alpine regions more than anywhere else. These drifted masses will be small-sized to begin with, but as the new fallen snow increases the snowdrifts will grow in size and frequency during the course of the day. As a result of rainfall up to approximately 2600 m, the likelihood of natural wet-snow avalanches will increase, particularly on north-facing slopes which have not yet discharged.

Snowpack analysis on north-facing slopes at altitudes between 2400 and 3000 m has shown that the weak layer deeply embedded inside the snow cover, particularly in inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, still threatens. In very isolated cases, triggering avalanches can fracture down to that weak layer and sweep away the entire snowpack.

Observed weather on Friday, 5.5.2017

Nocturnal skies in western and southern regions were partially clear, in eastern regions skies became increasingly overcast. There was a small amount of snowfall above approximately 1600 m, falling as showers. During the daytime in western and southern regions, it was predominantly sunny, and became increasingly sunny in eastern regions after the residual clouds dispersed.

Fresh snow

Above approximately 2200 m: in Grisons and in the Valais, as showers, 5 to 10 cm from place to place; in other regions of Switzerland, less, or it remained dry.

Temperature

Temperatures rose during the course of the day, starting in the west and moving eastward, at midday at 2000 m between +4 °C in western and southern regions, and +1 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

Winds were blowing at light to moderate strength, during the night from northerly directions, during the daytime shifting to westerly.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 6.5.2017

Nocturnal skies in eastern regions will be partially clear, everywhere else in Switzerland skies will be heavily overcast. In the latter part of the night, a warm front will traverse Switzerland from west to east, bringing some precipitation, most of which is expected to fall in the Prealps. During the daytime it will remain dry for the most part, accompanied by foehn-induced bright intervals in northern regions. At midday, precipitation is expected to set in once more from the west. The snowfall level will descend from approximately 2600 m down to approximately 2000 m during the afternoon.

Fresh snow

By Saturday afternoon above approximately 2800 m:

- northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, furthestmost western part of Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm; along the border to France, as much as 30 cm;
- southern flank of the Alps not including the southern Simplon region, Grisons: 5 to 10 cm.

Temperature

From west to east, temperatures are expected to drop during the course of the day, at midday at 2000 m to between +3 °C in western and southern regions, and +6 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

Winds will be blowing at moderate strength, at strong velocity in high alpine regions, from the southwest; in the Alpine valleys there will be a tendency towards foehn winds.

Outlook through Monday, 8.5.2017

Sunday

Skies will be heavily overcast over widespread areas, accompanied by snowfall, bringing 20 to 40 cm of fresh fallen snow to northern regions. The snowfall level will descend to approximately 1800 m. South of the Main Alpine Ridge it will be partly sunny as a result of the northerly winds. In northern regions, the danger of dry-snow avalanches will increase over widespread areas. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will diminish in northern regions and be subject to a daytime danger cycle in southern regions.

Monday

In northern regions, skies will be heavily overcast and the precipitation will slacken off somewhat. The snowfall level will be at 1600 m. In the Valais and in southern regions it is expected to be quite sunny. The avalanche danger could increase somewhat in northeastern regions; in other regions of Switzerland, danger levels are not expected to change significantly.