Avalanche bulletin through Sunday, 3 December 2017

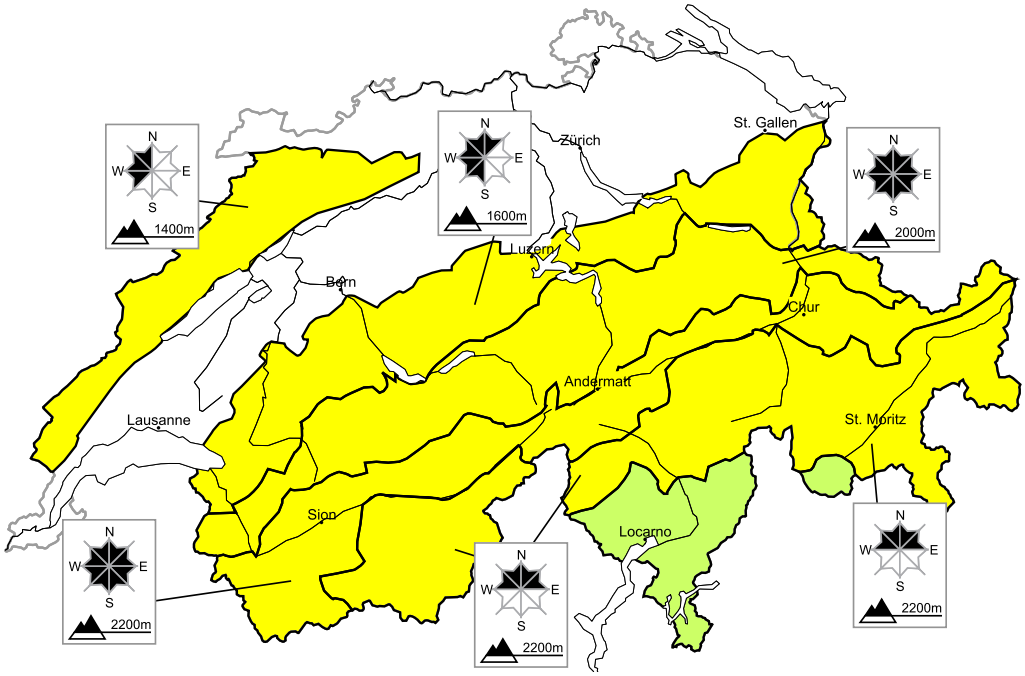
2.12.2017, 16:55

Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 2.12.2017, 17:00 / Next update: 3.12.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

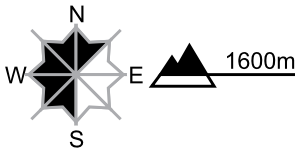
updated on 2.12.2017, 17:00



region A | **Level 2, moderate**

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the Bise wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. The fresh snow drift accumulations are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. They are to be bypassed as far as possible. Meticulous route selection is required.

Full-depth avalanches

Mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible on steep grassy slopes. This applies in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Danger levels 1 low | 2 moderate | 3 consider. | 4 high | 5 very high

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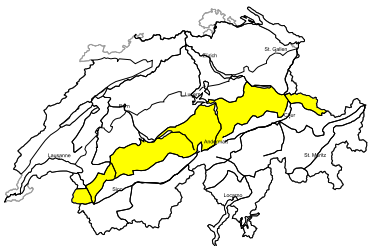
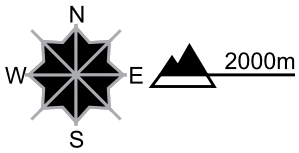
region B — Level 2, moderate



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



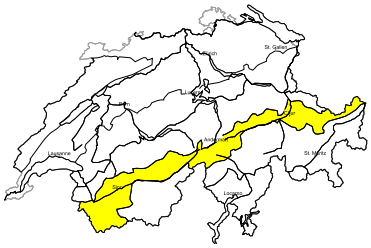
Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released in isolated cases.
Fresh snow drift accumulations are to be found adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. They can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. In high Alpine regions the snow drift accumulations are larger. These are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Full-depth avalanches

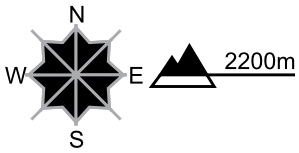
Mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible on steep grassy slopes. This applies in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack. This applies in particular on steep, little used slopes. These avalanche prone locations are rare but difficult to recognise. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger. Defensive route selection is recommended.
Fresh snow drift accumulations are to be found adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. They can in some cases be released easily, but they will be small in most cases. In high Alpine regions the snow drift accumulations are larger. 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.

Full-depth avalanches

Mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible on steep grassy slopes. This applies in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

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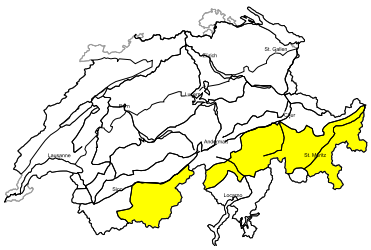
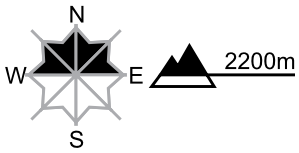
region D — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



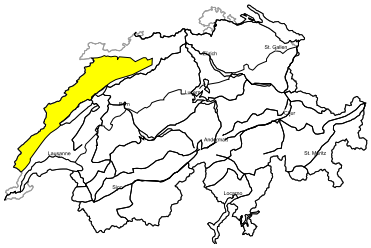
Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying.
Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack. This applies in particular on very steep shady slopes. These avalanche prone locations are rare but difficult to recognise. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger. Defensive route selection is recommended.

Snow drifts

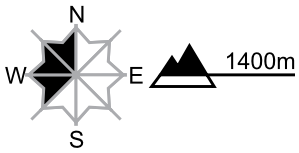
Fresh snow drift accumulations are to be found adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. They can in some cases be released by people, but they will be small in most cases. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are a little more prevalent.

region E — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

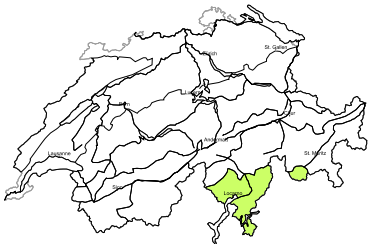
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Only a little snow is lying.
As a consequence of the Bise wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. This applies in particular adjacent to the ridge line as well as in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can be released in isolated cases. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region F — Level 1, low



From a snow sport perspective, in most cases insufficient snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 2.12.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

In northern regions, powder snow covers the ground in many regions. In the western part of the Prealps and in the Jura region, this powder snow has been intensively transported by bise winds. In the other regions of Switzerland, easterly winds have generated predominantly small-sized snowdrift accumulations at high altitudes more than anywhere else. The snowdrift accumulations were deposited on top of a snowpack surface consisting of loosely-packed snow which, at least to start with, is prone to triggering.
Beneath the powder snow, the old snow cover shows striking impact from the wind. Crests and broad ridges were frequently bare of snow, utterly windblown. Whereas gullies and bowls were filled to the brim with snow, sometimes quite deep. The old snowpack contains weak layers from place to place which stability tests have demonstrated to be easily triggerable, particularly in the zones where the snow is relatively shallow. Triggered avalanches in this old snowpack have not been registered or reported for the last few days, but their occurrence cannot be ruled out.

Observed weather on Saturday, 02.12.2017

Until the early morning hours there was snowfall, particularly in the Simplon region. The morning skies were heavily overcast in all regions of Switzerland. During the course of the morning, it swiftly became sunny in the mountains, only incrementally so in southern regions.

Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of snowfall were registered:
· from Monte Rosa to the Simplon region along the Italian border: 10 to 15 cm;
· remaining regions of Switzerland: only a few snowflakes, or else it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -7 °C.

Wind

· In the Jura region and in the western part of the Prealps, bise winds were blowing at strong velocity.
· In the other regions of Switzerland, light to moderate-strength winds, also strong-velocity winds at high altitude, were blowing from easterly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 03.12.2017

On Sunday morning it will be sunny in the mountains. During the afternoon, increasingly heavy cloud cover will move in from the north. In southern regions it will remain sunny.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be around -8 °C.

Wind

Winds are expected to shift from easterly to northerly and be blowing at moderate strength; reaching strong velocity in high alpine regions, on the Main Alpine Ridge and in southern regions.

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Outlook through Tuesday, 05.12.2017

Monday

On Monday, skies are expected to be heavily overcast, accompanied by a small amount of precipitation over widespread areas, most of which will occur in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Prättigau. The snowfall level will ascend to approximately 700 m. In the Valais it is expected to turn sunny during the course of the day. In the furthermost southern regions it will be sunny all day long as a result of northerly winds which in some places will be blowing at strong-velocity. The avalanche danger may well increase somewhat from region to region.

Tuesday

In northeastern regions in the early morning hours of Tuesday, there is a small amount of snowfall anticipated above approximately 1000 m. During the daytime, the cloud cover will disperse more and more. In western and in southern regions, it will be predominantly sunny all day long. The northerly winds are expected to slacken off. The avalanche danger will decrease.