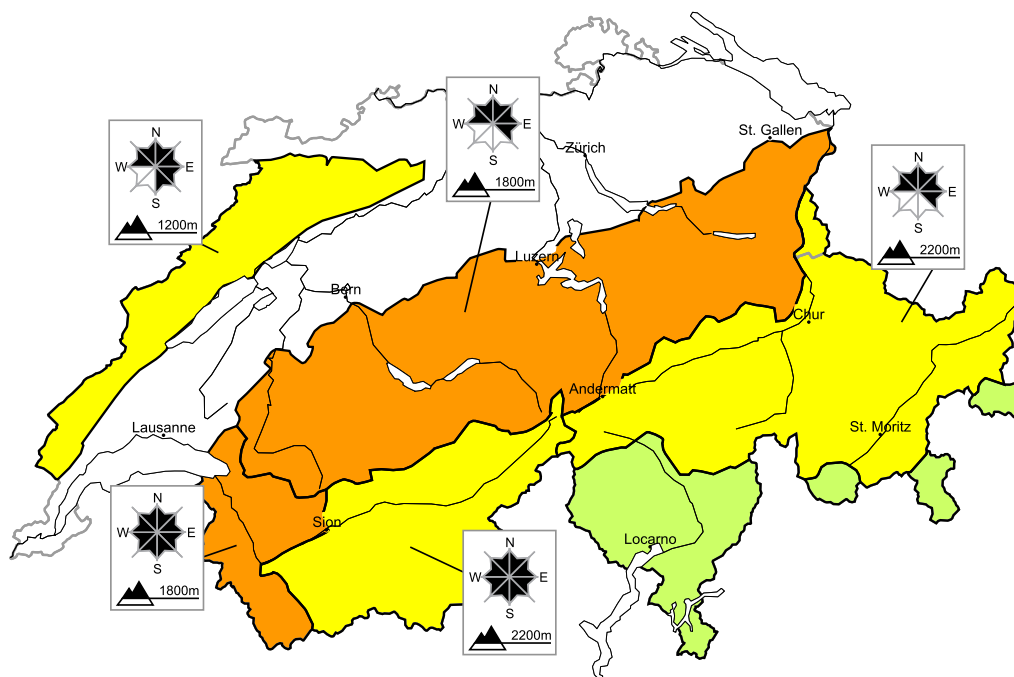


In some regions increase in avalanche danger as a consequence of fresh snow and wind

Edition: 7.12.2017, 17:00 / Next update: 8.12.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 7.12.2017, 17:00



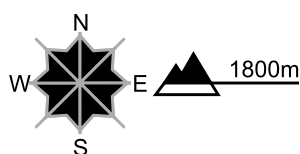
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The sometimes storm force wind will transport the fresh snow and, in some cases, old snow as well. As the day progresses the snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. They can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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 2400 m as well as on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

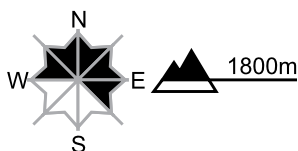
region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

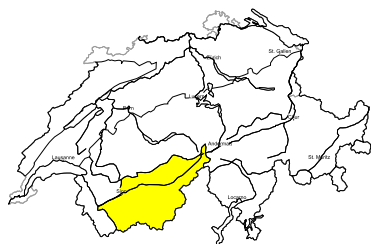
The sometimes storm force wind will transport the loosely bonded old snow. As a consequence of the snowfall the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. In the late morning danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Mostly they are small. In very isolated cases avalanches can also penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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 2400 m as well as on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

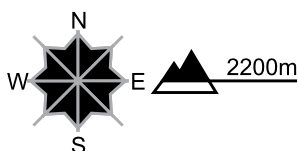
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

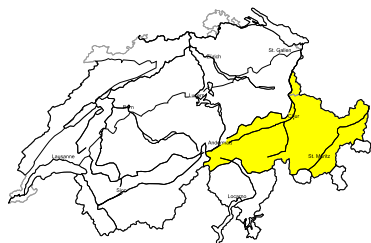
The strong wind will transport the fresh snow and, in some cases, old snow as well. The mostly small snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. They are to be found in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain.

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.

Careful route selection is required.

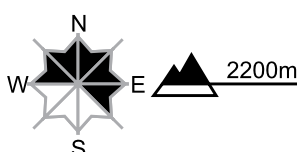
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



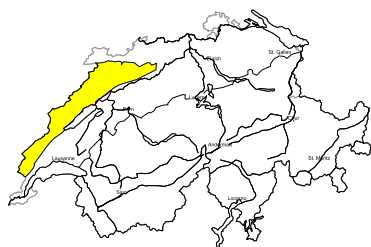
Danger description

The fresh and older snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase.

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. Isolated whumping sounds can indicate the danger. Careful route selection is recommended.

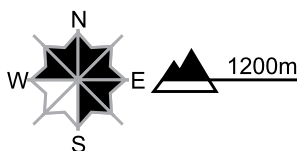
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

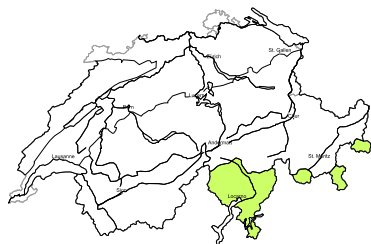
The storm force wind will transport the fresh snow significantly. Fresh snow drift accumulations are to be found in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. In many cases dry avalanches are only small but can be released in some cases even by a single winter sport participant. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be avoided whenever possible.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain moist snow slides are to be expected, but they will be mostly small. This applies in particular on steep slopes below approximately 1200 m.

region F

Level 1, low



A little 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 7.12.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

The fresh snow and loosely-packed old snow are being transported by strong to storm-strength winds. Particularly on shady slopes, the fresh snow and freshly formed snowdrifts will be deposited on top of a loosely-packed old snow cover surface or, in some places, atop surface hoar.

At 2000 m in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps there is 80 to 120 cm of snow on the ground, from place to place as much as 160 cm. In the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, there is 50 to 80 cm of snow on the ground; further to the south, there is less. The old snow cover manifests striking impact from winds. Crests and broad ridges have often been completely windblown and are bare of snow. Whereas gullies and bowls are, in some places, filled to the brim with snow. In places where the snow is shallow, as well as in regions where there has been little snowfall, the old snow cover consists of faceted snow crystals and is frequently loosely-packed all the way down to the ground. Avalanche triggerings in the old snow are possible.

More than anywhere else in the northern regions where snowfall has been heaviest, gliding avalanches continue to be possible.

Observed weather on Thursday, 07.12.2017

It was sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in northern regions and -1 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds were blowing at light to moderate strength, intermittently at strong velocity in the high altitude zones of the Jura region and in the Prealps, from southwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Friday, 08.12.2017

During the course of Thursday night, skies will become increasingly overcast and precipitation will set in from the west. The snowfall level will descend from 1600 m down to 1200 m. During the daytime on Friday, skies will be heavily overcast over widespread areas, accompanied by snowfall down to low lying areas. In northern regions and in the Jura, storm-strength westerly winds are expected to arise. In the furthestmost southern regions, next to no snowfall is anticipated and in the afternoon, northerly winds will arise.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday afternoon above approximately 1800 m, in the Jura above approximately 1200 m:

- Jura region, Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm; from Chablais to the Great St. Bernard as much as 40 cm from place to place;
- remaining parts of Valais, Gotthard region, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 5 to 15 cm; in other regions, less, or else it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -10 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- During the night in the high altitude zones of the Jura, in the Lower Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in high alpine regions in general, winds will be blowing at strong to storm strength, in the other regions of Switzerland at moderate to strong velocity, from westerly to southwesterly directions.
- During the daytime, winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from westerly to northwesterly directions.

Avalanche bulletin through Friday, 8 December 2017

7.12.2017, 16:47

Outlook through Sunday, 10.12.2017**Saturday**

On Saturday in northern regions, skies will be heavily overcast, accompanied by snowfall down to low lying areas. At high altitudes, a strong northerly wind will be blowing. South of the Main Alpine Ridge it will be partly sunny. The northerly winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity. The avalanche danger will continue to increase.

Sunday

In northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy to start with, with interims of brightness; in southern regions it will be quite sunny. During the course of the day, skies will become increasingly overcast from the west and in southern regions above approximately 1000 m, snowfall is expected to set in. The westerly wind will intensify. The avalanche danger will decrease somewhat, but not change significantly in western regions.