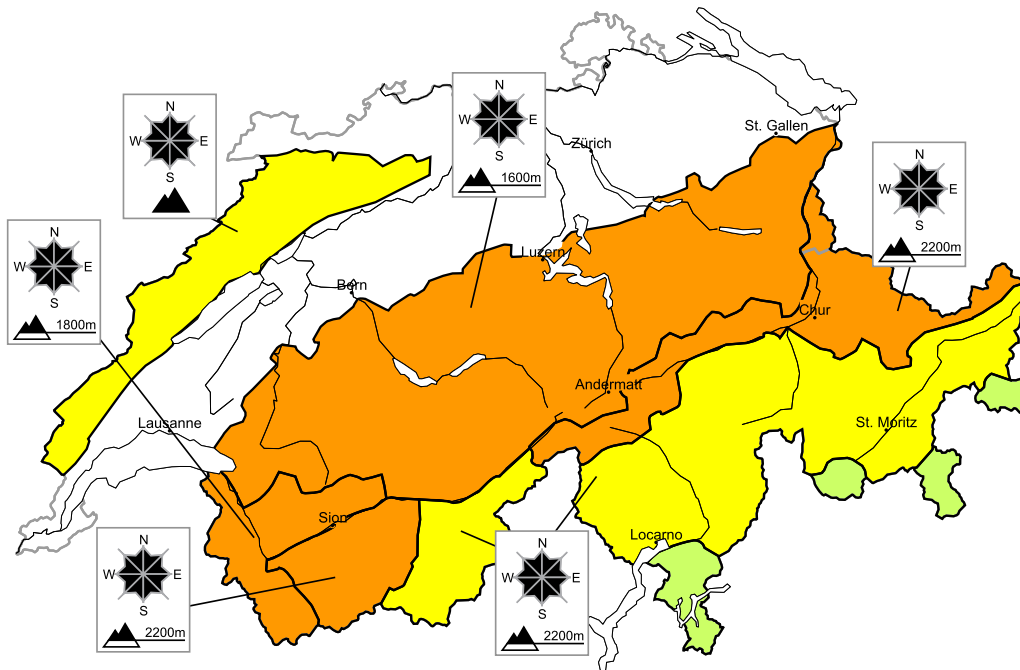


Increase in avalanche danger as the day progresses

Edition: 10.12.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 10.12.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 10.12.2017, 08:00

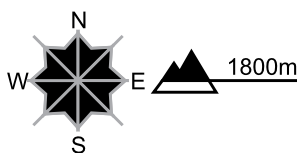


region A **Level 3, considerable**



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The sometimes storm force wind will transport the fresh snow significantly. The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. They can in some cases penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. Natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Until the evening danger level 4 (high) will be reached. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

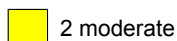
Mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible on steep grassy slopes. This applies in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m as well as on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Below approximately 1800 m wet snow slides are to be expected.

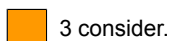
Danger levels



1 low



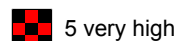
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



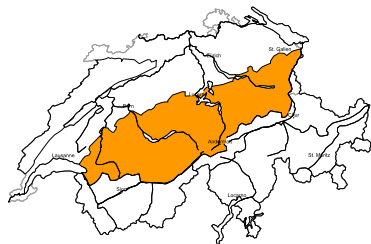
5 very high



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Avalanche Research SLF
www.slf.ch

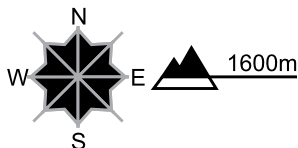
region B

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 significantly. The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. They can in some cases penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. Natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

The prevalence of avalanche prone locations and likelihood of triggering will increase as the day progresses. Until the evening danger level 4 (high) will be reached. The conditions are critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

Wet and 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.

Below approximately 1800 m wet snow slides are to be expected.

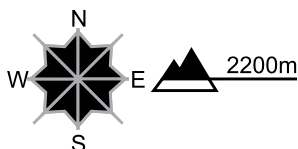
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The sometimes strong wind will transport the fresh snow and, in some cases, old snow as well. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. In isolated cases avalanches can also penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Until the evening danger level 4 (high) will be reached. The conditions are critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

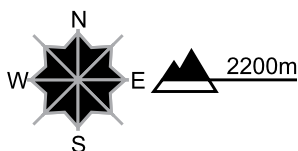
region D

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

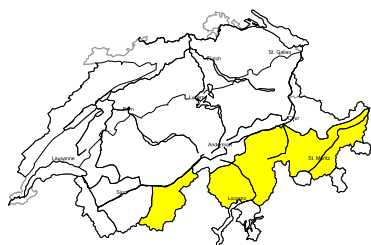


Danger description

The sometimes strong wind will transport the fresh snow and, in some cases, old snow as well. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Mostly they are rather small. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. In isolated cases avalanches can also penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

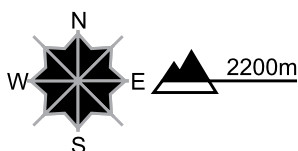
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

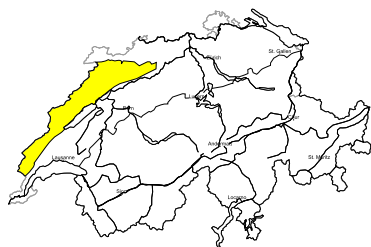


Danger description

The sometimes storm force wind will transport the fresh snow and, in some cases, old snow as well. The fresh and older snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. Mostly the avalanches are small. 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. Careful route selection is recommended. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Upper Valais: Until the evening danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached.

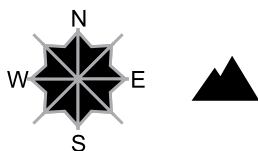
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations

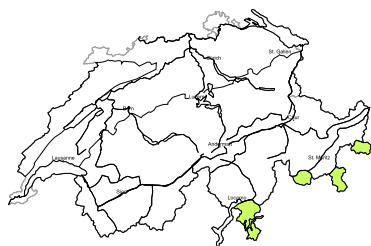


Danger description

As a consequence of the rain more frequent wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected, but they will be mostly small.

region G

Level 1, low



Snow drifts

A little snow is lying. As a consequence of the stormy weather small snow drift accumulations will form, especially at elevated altitudes. 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 9.12.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

Fresh snow is being deposited on top of the snow which fell on Saturday at low temperatures and was, therefore, loosely-packed on the uppermost surface or else influenced by the wind. At transition points to the old snow, or on the southern flank of the Alps and in the Engadine, loosely-packed, faceted-snow crystal layers still lie at the uppermost surface of the snow cover on shady slopes more than anywhere else.

As a result of the prognosticated arrival of storm-strength southeasterly winds and milder temperatures, wide-ranging, slab-type snowdrift accumulations are expected to form. These drifts will be highly prone to triggering.

In places where the snow is shallow, as well as in regions where there has been little snowfall, that is, in southern Upper Valais, Ticino, central Grisons and the Engadine, more than anywhere else, the old snow cover in many places consists of faceted snow crystals and is loosely-packed all the way down to the ground. In all regions of Switzerland, the old snow cover harbors weak layers in some places, which stability tests have demonstrated to be easily triggerable. Avalanche releases are possible in the old snow.

Particularly in the northern regions where snowfall has been heaviest, gliding avalanches continue to be possible.

Observed weather on Saturday, 09.12.2017

On Saturday morning the snowfall came to an end, apart from a few scattered showers. However, skies remained heavily overcast in northern regions, whereas on the southern flank of the Alps skies tended to brighten.

Fresh snow

On Friday night, there was significantly more snowfall than had been anticipated, more than anywhere else on the northern flank of the Alps east of the Reuss, bringing 40 cm of fresh snow. On the northern flank of the Alps there was widespread snowfall, bringing 15 to 30 cm of fresh snow; in the other regions, less. Since the beginning of this period of precipitation on Thursday night, the following amounts of snowfall have been registered:

- northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, western part of Lower Valais, Prättigau: 20 to 40 cm over widespread areas; as much as 70 cm in parts of the Urner and Glarner Alps;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; in the furthest southern regions, it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -13 °C in northern regions and -10 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds were northwesterly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity at high altitudes, at storm strength in some places; winds then slackened off somewhat during the course of the day.
- On the southern flank of the Alps, intermittently strong-velocity northerly foehn winds were blowing.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 10.12.2017

Following a night of partially clear skies Saturday, precipitation coming from the west will rapidly set in as of the early morning hours on Sunday. The snowfall level in the early morning will still be at low lying areas, but subsequently will swiftly ascend, up to approximately 1800 m in the western part of Lower Valais and in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps.

Fresh snow

By Sunday evening, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:

- western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais not including the valleys of Visp, Simplon region and southern Goms: 20 to 40 cm; more in some places of the furthest part of Lower Valais;
- valleys of Visp, Simplon region and southern Goms, as well as the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm;
- Ticino and Grisons: 5 to 15 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in northern regions and -12 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds on the northern flank of the Alps, and in other regions at high altitudes in particular, will be blowing at strong to storm strength from westerly to southwesterly directions. In the northern alpine valleys, strong to storm-strength foehn wind will be blowing.

Outlook through Tuesday, 12.12.2017

Monday

On Monday, the greatest amounts of precipitation are anticipated in the furthest western regions, as well as on the Main Alpine Ridge, particularly from the Lukmanier Pass into Val Müstair and southwards therefrom. Only a small amount of precipitation is anticipated between the Bernese Oberland and Liechtenstein, in northern Grisons and in the Engadine. In those regions, a foehn storm will be raging. The snowfall is expected to ascend to nearly 2000 m in western and in northern regions. In southern regions it will lie between 500 and 1000 m. The avalanche danger is expected to increase markedly from the Lukmanier Pass into Val Müstair and southwards therefrom more than anywhere else; in the other regions of Switzerland, avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Tuesday

On Monday night, intensive snowfall is anticipated on the Main Alpine Ridge from Lukmanier Pass into Val Müstair and southwards therefrom more than anywhere else. The precipitation is expected to extend towards or into central Grisons. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, markedly less precipitation is anticipated. The snowfall level will descend. Thereafter, the southwesterly air current is expected to weaken incrementally. But the avalanche danger will remain critical over widespread areas.

Current avalanche bulletin

Internet www.slf.ch
App White Risk
(iPhone, Android)

Feedback to avalanche warners

(Avalanche released? Bulletin inaccurate?)
Questionnaire www.slf.ch
E-Mail lwp@slf.ch
Toll-free phone number 0800 800 187

Additional specialized federal departments

MeteoSwiss (weather) / www.meteoswiss.ch –
Alpine weather report: tel. 0900 162 138 (CHF 1.20/min., in German)
FOEN (flood, forest fire) / www.bafu.admin.ch
SED (Earthquakes) / www.seismo.ethz.ch



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