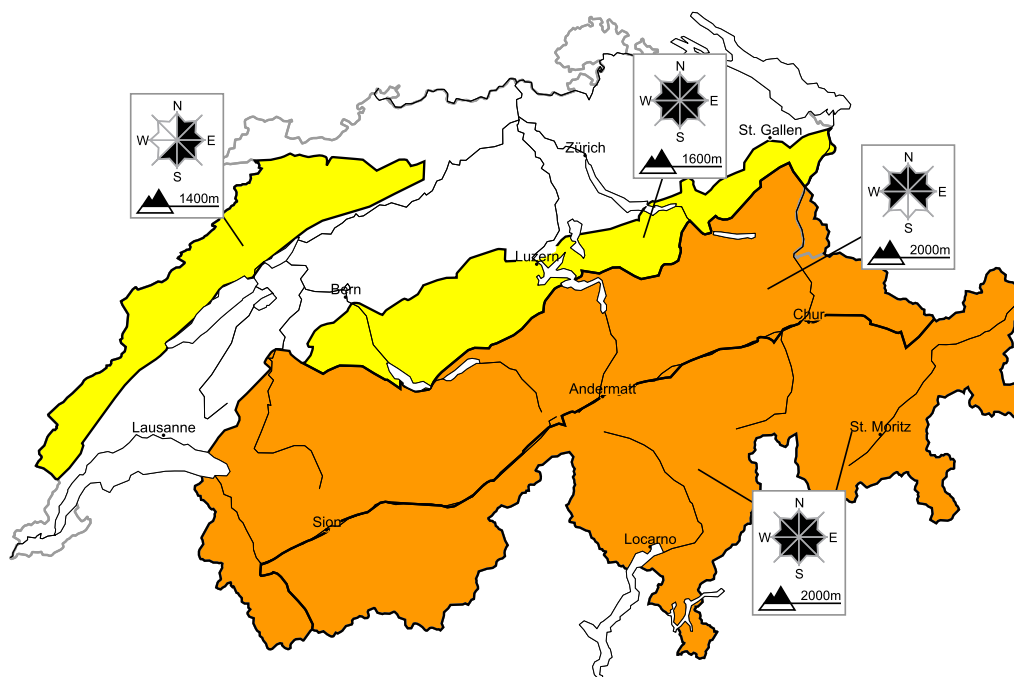


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 13.12.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 13.12.2017, 17:00

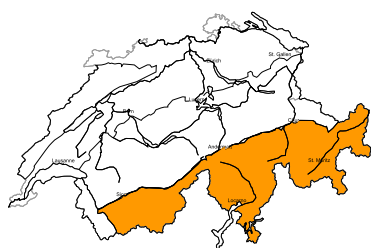
Avalanche danger

updated on 13.12.2017, 08:00



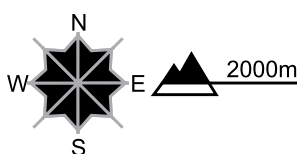
region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. They are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on west, north and east facing slopes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. Hardly any more natural avalanches are to be expected. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for caution and restraint.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

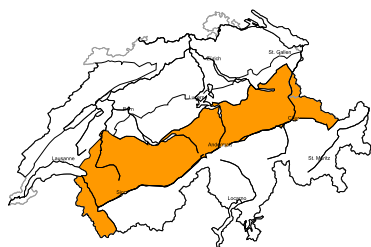
5 very high



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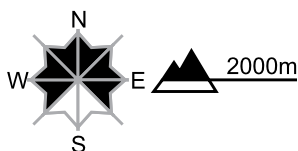
region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The large snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released, especially at their margins,. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places, including medium-sized ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

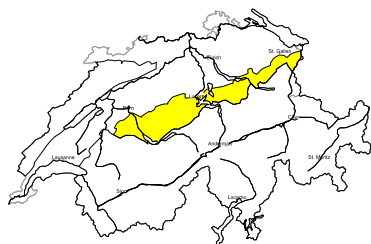
As the day progresses mostly small snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes more full-depth avalanches are possible. 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.

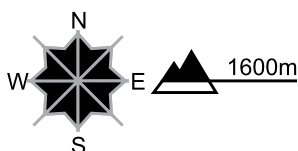
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The large snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released in isolated cases, but mostly only by large additional loads,. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

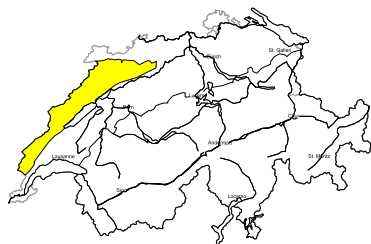
As the day progresses mostly small snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes more full-depth avalanches are possible. 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.

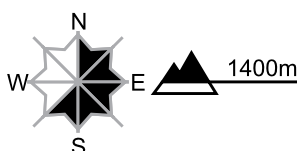
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the southwesterly wind mostly small snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be avoided especially in rocky terrain.

On very steep slopes individual wet snow slides are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 12.12.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

The likelihood of triggering the large-sized snowdrift accumulations, which were generated between Friday and Monday in the western and northern regions more than anywhere else, is incrementally diminishing. The snowdrifts which were then generated until Tuesday morning in southern and eastern regions more than anywhere else are still prone to triggering. In southern Valais, in the Ticino, in central Grisons, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons, many layers of fresh snow and freshly formed snowdrifts have been deposited on top of a weak old snowpack surface in numerous places. Also in the northern part of Valais, in the Gotthard region and in northern Grisons, the old snow cover contains weak layers in some places. Avalanche triggerings in this old snow is possible in these regions. The snowpack structuring is most favourable on the northern flank of the Alps.

On Monday on the northern flank of the Alps, in northern and central Grisons and in the Engadine, the snow cover was moistened up to approximately 2000 m. As a result of the descending temperatures, the snowpack is stabilising down to intermediate altitudes. In the regions of the north where snowfall has been heaviest, more than anywhere else, however to an increasing degree also in southern regions, gliding avalanches are possible.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 12.12.2017

In the latter part of the night the precipitation came to an end in Grisons. The snowfall level descended from approximately 2000 m to nearly 1500 m, but varied greatly from place to place. In the morning there were bright intervals in the southeastern regions. In western and northern regions, at the same time, light snowfall extending down to low lying areas set in.

Fresh snow

Between Monday morning and Tuesday morning, the following amounts of snowfall were registered above approximately 2000 m:

- Main Alpine Ridge from the Lukmanier Pass into Val Müstair and southwards therefrom: 60 to 80 cm; in Val Bregaglia and the Bernina region, more than 100 cm;
- remaining parts of Ticino, remaining parts of central Grisons, remaining parts of Lower Engadine: 40 to 60 cm;
- Chablais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, western part of Lower Valais, Main Alpine Ridge from the Lower Valais into the Gotthard region, northern Grisons: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: 10 to 20 cm.

During the course of the day on Tuesday, in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in the furthestmost western part of Lower Valais: 5 to 15 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -8 °C in northwestern regions and -2 °C in southeastern regions.

Wind

- During the night, winds were blowing at strong velocity, in isolated cases at storm strength, from southerly to southwesterly directions.
- During the daytime, winds were blowing mostly at light to moderate strength, from westerly to southwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 13.12.2017

Following a night of predominantly clear skies, it will initially be quite sunny during the daytime. During the course of the day, new cloud cover will move in from the northwest. In the afternoon in western and in northern regions, light snowfall is expected to set in.

Fresh snow

In the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in northwestern regions and -6 °C in southeastern regions.

Wind

- Winds during the night will be light to moderate, from west to northwest.
- In the afternoon, westerly to southwesterly winds will be blowing at strong to storm velocity, particularly on the northern flank of the Alps.

Outlook through Friday, 15.12.2017**Thursday**

In western and southern regions, snowfall is anticipated which in western regions is expected to be heavy. The snowfall level will descend from approximately 1500 m down to low lying areas. In Grisons and in the Ticino, it is expected to remain predominantly dry. Winds will be blowing at strong to storm velocity from westerly to southwesterly directions. The avalanche danger will increase in northern and western regions. In Grisons and in Ticino, avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.

Friday

Snowfall down to low lying areas is expected over widespread areas. In western regions the snowfall will be heavy; in Grisons and in Ticino rather light. Winds will continue to be blowing at strong to storm velocity from westerly directions during the night. Subsequently, winds will slacken off somewhat during the daytime. The avalanche danger will increase over widespread areas. In western regions, danger level 4 (high avalanche danger) is possible.