Avalanche bulletin through Monday, 25 December 2017

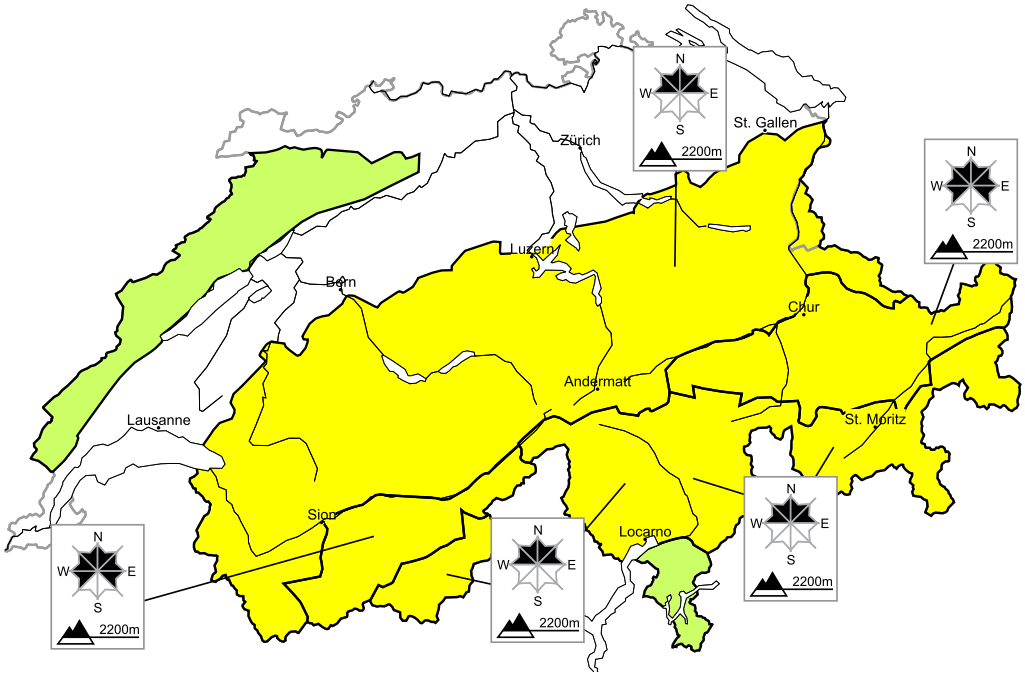
24.12.2017, 16:44

A generally favourable avalanche situation will prevail

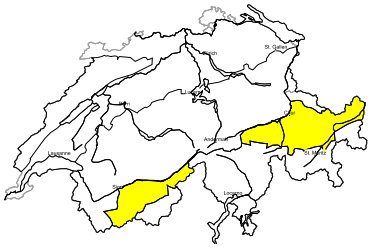
Edition: 24.12.2017, 17:00 / Next update: 25.12.2017, 08:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 24.12.2017, 17:00

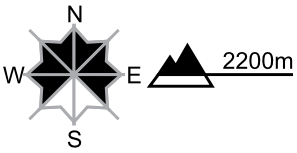


region A — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. These can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow, in particular on very steep shady slopes. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Careful route selection and spacing between individuals are recommended.

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

WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF
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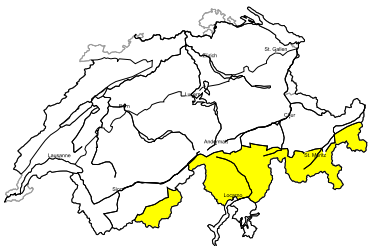
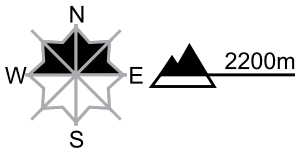
region B — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

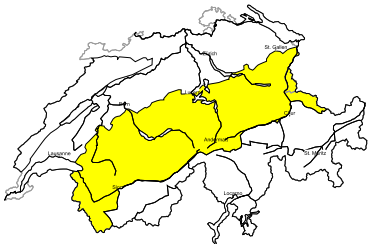
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

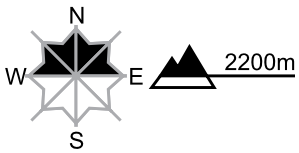
Avalanches can be released in the old snowpack, mostly by large additional loads. Caution is to be exercised at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Careful route selection and spacing between individuals are recommended.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



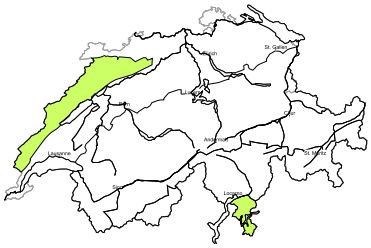
Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers, in particular by large additional loads. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. They are rather rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Careful route selection is recommended.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes more small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected. 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.

region D — Level 1, low



Full-depth avalanches

A widespread favourable avalanche situation will prevail. On very steep slopes individual full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 24.12.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

In the northern and western regions where snowfall has been heaviest, the snow cover is well structured for the most part. From place to place in these regions, avalanche triggerings are still possible in the uppermost layers of the snowpack. In the southern Valais, in the northern parts of the Ticino, in central Grisons, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons, the base of the snowpack is weak in places. In these regions, avalanches can still be triggered near the ground in the lowermost layers of the snowpack.
At high altitudes in general, as well as in the central and eastern parts of the Main Alpine Ridge, the snowpack surface shows striking effects of wind impact and the distribution of snow is highly irregular. Below approximately 1600 m the snowpack is thoroughly wet. During the long nights with clear skies, the snowpack surface cools off radically and a crust forms on very steep south-facing slopes up to altitudes of 2200 m.
The frequency of gliding avalanches in the western regions and on the northern flank of the Alps where snowfall has been heaviest is slowly diminishing. Releases continue to be possible, however.

Observed weather on Sunday, 24.12.2017

It was sunny and mild in the mountains on Christmas Eve.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +8 °C in western and southern regions and +6 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

Nordwesterly

- Winds during the night were light, blowing at moderate to strong velocity at high altitudes in general and in eastern regions in particular.
- During the daytime, winds slackened off, were still blowing at light strength, reaching moderate velocity especially in eastern regions.

Weather forecast through Monday, 25.12.2017

On Christmas Day, it will again be sunny and mild in the mountains. On the southern flank of the Alps, cloud cover will increase as evening approaches.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in northern regions +6 °C; in southern regions +3 °C.

Wind

Winds, initially blowing at light to moderate strength, will shift to southwesterly, then intensify during the afternoon.

Outlook through Wednesday, 27.12.2017

Tuesday

On Boxing Day, foehn conditions will still prevail in some parts of the Alps, particularly in southern regions. In western and southern regions, a small amount of precipitation is anticipated. The danger of dry-snow avalanches could increase from region to region. The danger of gliding avalanches will decrease incrementally.

Wednesday

On Wednesday, skies will be heavily overcast, and precipitation is anticipated particularly in southern regions. The snowfall level will descend to below 1000 m. In northern regions the foehn conditions will persist and precipitation is expected during the afternoon in particular. The snowfall level will gradually descend down to low lying areas. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will increase in southern regions more than anywhere else.