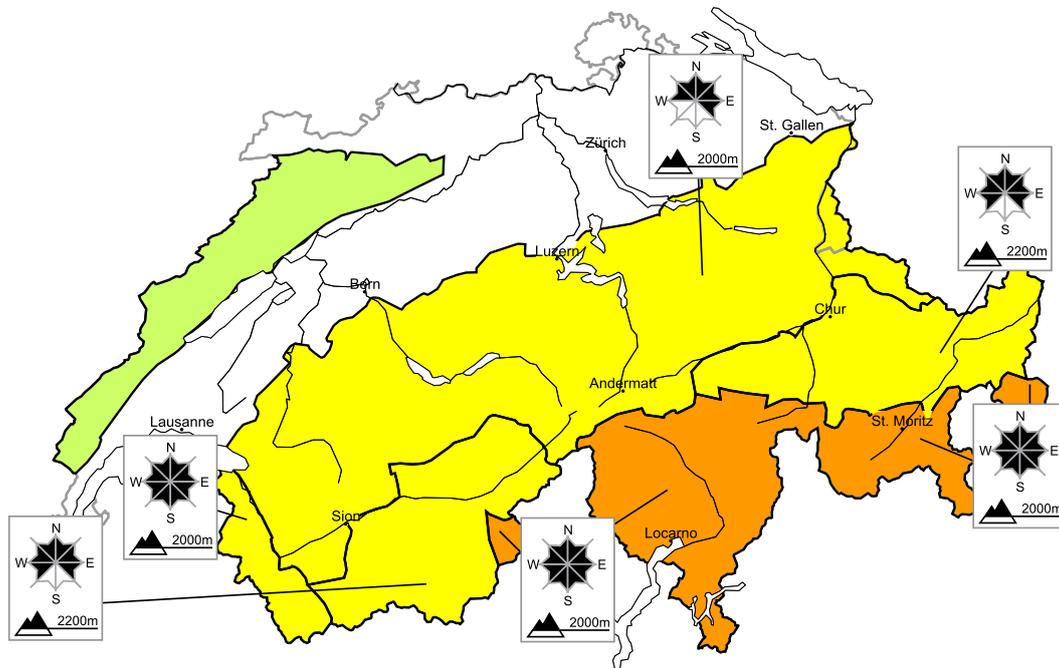


# In the south a considerable avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 27.12.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 27.12.2017, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 27.12.2017, 08:00

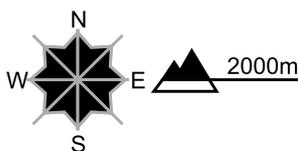


**region A** **Level 3, considerable**



### Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

#### Avalanche prone locations

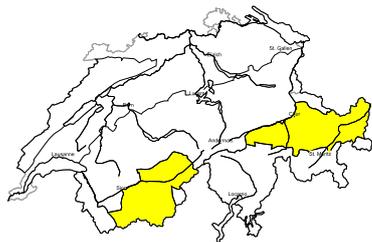


#### Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. The danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached in the late morning. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack in particular on west, north and east facing slopes. Single persons can release avalanches. In the afternoon individual natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can release the weakly bonded old snow as well and reach a dangerous size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

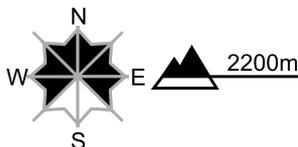
## region B

## Level 2, moderate



## Old snow, snow drifts

## Avalanche prone locations



## Danger description

Avalanches can in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow. These can 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. Whumpfung 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.

As a consequence of the storm force foehn wind the snow drift accumulations will increase in size. These are prone to triggering. At elevated altitudes avalanche prone locations are more prevalent. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be avoided as far as possible.

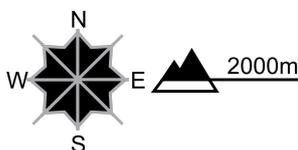
## region C

## Level 2, moderate



## Fresh snow and snow drifts

## Avalanche prone locations



## Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. As the day progresses the snow drift accumulations will increase in size. The avalanche danger will increase during the day, reaching danger level 3 (considerable). The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be avoided as far as possible.

## Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes individual small and medium-sized 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.

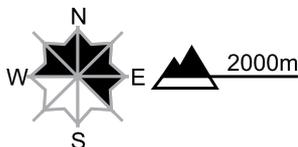
## region D

## Level 2, moderate



## Snow drifts, old snow

## Avalanche prone locations



## Danger description

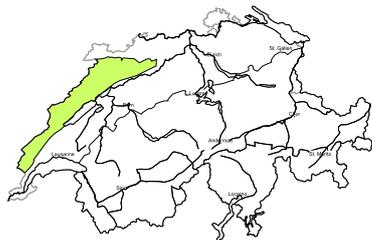
As a consequence of the storm force foehn wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be avoided as far as possible. Older snow drift accumulations can be released in isolated cases, but mostly only 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. Careful route selection is recommended.

## Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes individual small and medium-sized 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 E

## Level 1, low



## Snow drifts

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather snow drift accumulations will form. These are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 26.12.2017, 17:00

### Snowpack

The surface of the snowpack at elevated altitudes generally has been significantly influenced by the wind and therefore provides rather favourable conditions for the forthcoming snowfall. Between approximately 2200 and 2800 m on west, north and east facing slopes that are better protected from the wind, in contrast, the snow surface is loosely packed in many places and in some cases faceted. Bonding with the fresh snow is likely to be least favourable in these aspects. On steep south facing slopes, a crust has formed below approximately 2200 m ahead of the anticipated snowfall. In the northern and western regions where a lot of snow has fallen, the snowpack is mostly well bonded. In some places here, avalanches can still be triggered in near-surface layers of the snowpack. Fairly weak layers of old snow lying deep in the snowpack could possibly be disturbed, but releases are now likely to be rare. In southern Valais, the northern parts of Ticino, central Grisons, Engadine and in the Grisons southern valleys, the base of the snowpack is weak in many cases. In these places avalanches can still be released in near-ground layers of the snowpack. Gliding avalanche activity has decreased significantly in recent days. In particular in the northern and western regions where a lot of snow has fallen, however, individual gliding avalanches can still occur.

### Observed weather on Tuesday, 26.12.2017

Boxing Day was characterised by weak foehn conditions. In the south and west the weather was overcast, and light snow fell above approximately 1300 m. The northeast remained fairly sunny until later in the afternoon.

#### Fresh snow

A few centimetres in the south and west

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: -3 °C

#### Wind

- At elevated altitudes, moderate to strong from the southwest
- In the Alpine valleys, occasionally moderate foehn

### Weather forecast through Wednesday, 27.12.2017

The south will be overcast and snow will fall. In the northeast the foehn wind will give rise to further bright spells in the morning, but light snowfall will commence in the afternoon. The snowfall level will be mostly below 1000 m.

#### Fresh snow

By Wednesday evening the following amounts of snow will fall above 1000 m:

- Main Alpine ridge from the Simplon region to Val Müstair, and on the southern flank of the Alps: 20 to 40 cm, but as much as 50 cm from the Lukmanier Pass via Val Bregaglia to the Bernina region
- Extreme west of Lower Valais: 20 to 30 cm
- Western part of the northern flank of the Alps, rest of Valais, rest of central Grisons and Engadine: 10 to 20 cm; elsewhere: a few centimetres

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: -4 °C

#### Wind

- At elevated altitudes, moderate to storm force from the southwest
- In the Alpine valleys, a strong foehn wind

As the day progresses the wind will ease and veer westerly.

**Outlook** through Friday, 29.12.2017**Thursday**

Snow will fall in the north. It will become increasingly sunny in the south with a strong northerly wind. The danger of dry avalanches will increase in the north, but not change significantly in the south.

**Friday**

In the northeast some more snow will fall. It will be quite sunny in the south and west. As the day progresses cloud will build up from the west, and in the afternoon snow will begin to fall again. The avalanche situation will not change significantly.