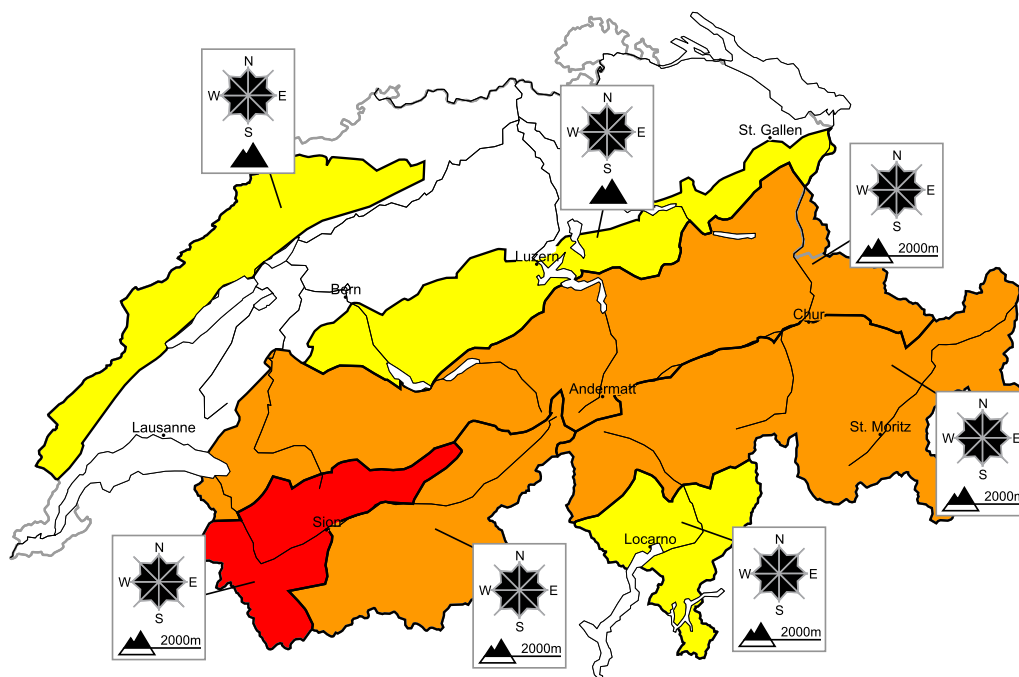


# In the west a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 3.1.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 3.1.2018, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 3.1.2018, 08:00



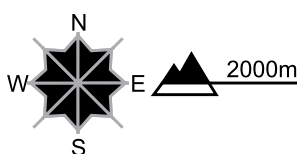
region A

Level 4, high



### Fresh snow and snow drifts

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather dangerous snow drift accumulations will form. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. As the snowfall becomes more intense more frequent natural avalanches are to be expected, including large ones in isolated cases. Until the middle of the day danger level 4 (high) will be reached. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

### Wet and full-depth avalanches

As the snowfall level rises full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



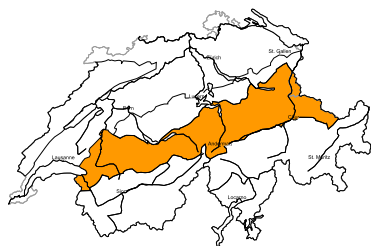
**Danger description**

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather dangerous snow drift accumulations will form. Additionally avalanches can penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

An increasing number of natural avalanches are to be expected as the snowfall becomes more intense, this applies especially in the afternoon. Danger level 4 (high) will be reached. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

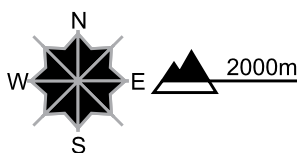
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather dangerous snow drift accumulations will form. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. An increasing number of small and medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected as the snowfall becomes more intense, this applies especially in the afternoon. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

As a consequence of the rain more frequent full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

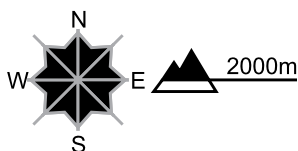
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**

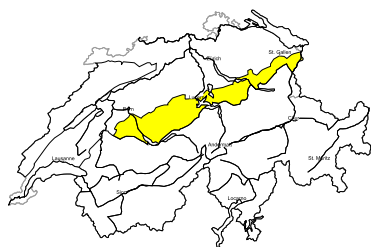


**Danger description**

As a consequence of the strong wind easily released snow drift accumulations will form. Additionally in some places avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow and at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

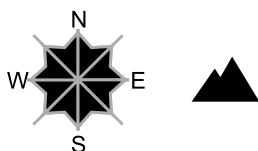
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Especially at high altitude snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be bypassed in very steep terrain. As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase in the afternoon. In the afternoon danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

As a consequence of the rain mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

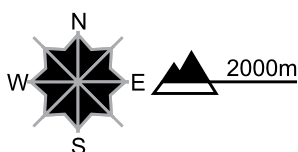
**region F**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**

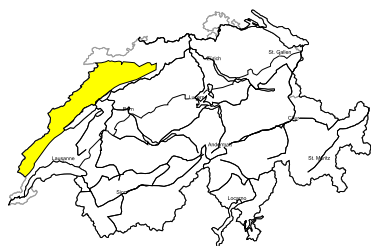


**Danger description**

As a consequence of the strong wind mostly small snow drift accumulations will form, in particular on south facing slopes. Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack, especially on north facing slopes. Mostly avalanches are small. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

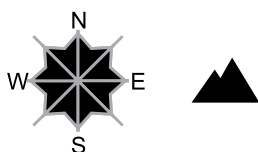
**region G**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

In the afternoon avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be bypassed in very steep terrain. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

As a consequence of the rain small full-depth avalanches and wet snow slides are to be expected.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 2.1.2018, 17:00

### Snowpack

Heavy snowfall and a storm force westerly wind will give rise to extensive snow drift accumulations at high altitudes. These accumulations will be unstable.

In southern Valais, the northern parts of Ticino, central Grisons, Engadine and the Grisons southern valleys in particular, the base of the snowpack is only weakly bonded. In these regions avalanches can be released in near-ground layers of the snowpack, in particular on west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2000 m. In the other regions the bonding of the snowpack is favourable. Fractures can occur deep in the snowpack only in isolated instances.

Rain will weaken the snowpack at intermediate altitudes. Both wet snow and gliding avalanches are to be expected on the northern flank of the Alps in particular.

### Observed weather on Tuesday, 02.01.2018

During the night snow fell in the north. The snowfall level dropped from 1500 m to low altitudes. In the far south it remained dry. During the day it was mostly very cloudy with occasional light snowfall. It was quite sunny in the south.

#### Fresh snow

Above 1500 m:

- Lower Valais, Lötschental, Aletsch region: 20 to 40 cm
- Western part of the northern flank of the Alps, western Jura: 15 to 30 cm
- Central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, rest of Upper Valais, northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm
- Elsewhere: smaller amounts, none in the south

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: -7 °C in the north and -4 °C in the south

#### Wind

Moderate, occasionally strong, from the west to northwest

### Weather forecast through Wednesday, 03.01.2018

During the night snow will fall over a wide area in the north. The snowfall level will rise in the west to approximately 2200 m and in the east to approximately 1800 m. After a break in precipitation in the morning, heavy snowfall will recommence towards midday. The snowfall level will drop towards 1000 m. Only the far south will remain mostly dry.

#### Fresh snow

Above 2200 m:

- Northern Alpine ridge, Valais: 30 to 50 cm, but up to 70 cm in the far west
- Rest of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, Lower Engadine north of the Inn: 20 to 40 cm
- Central Grisons, rest of Engadine, Bedretto, Jura: 10 to 25 cm
- South of the main Alpine ridge: less than 10 cm

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -3 °C in the north and 0°C in the south, falling in the afternoon

#### Wind

Storm force from the west to northwest

**Outlook** through Friday, 05.01.2018**Thursday**

The storm force westerly wind will be accompanied by persistent and heavy snowfall in the north. The snowfall level will rise during the day to approximately 2200 m in the west and 1800 m in the east. To the south of the main Alpine ridge only a little snow will fall.

The avalanche danger will increase significantly. On the northern Alpine ridge, in Valais, in northern Grisons and in Lower Engadine north of the Inn, danger level 4 (high) is expected to be reached over a wide area. Numerous medium-sized and large avalanches are to be expected.

**Friday**

The north will be very cloudy with snowfall above 1700 m. The wind will be strong from the west to southwest. The south will remain dry at first, but precipitation will begin to fall towards the evening.

The avalanche danger will decrease a little, but remain critical over a wide area.