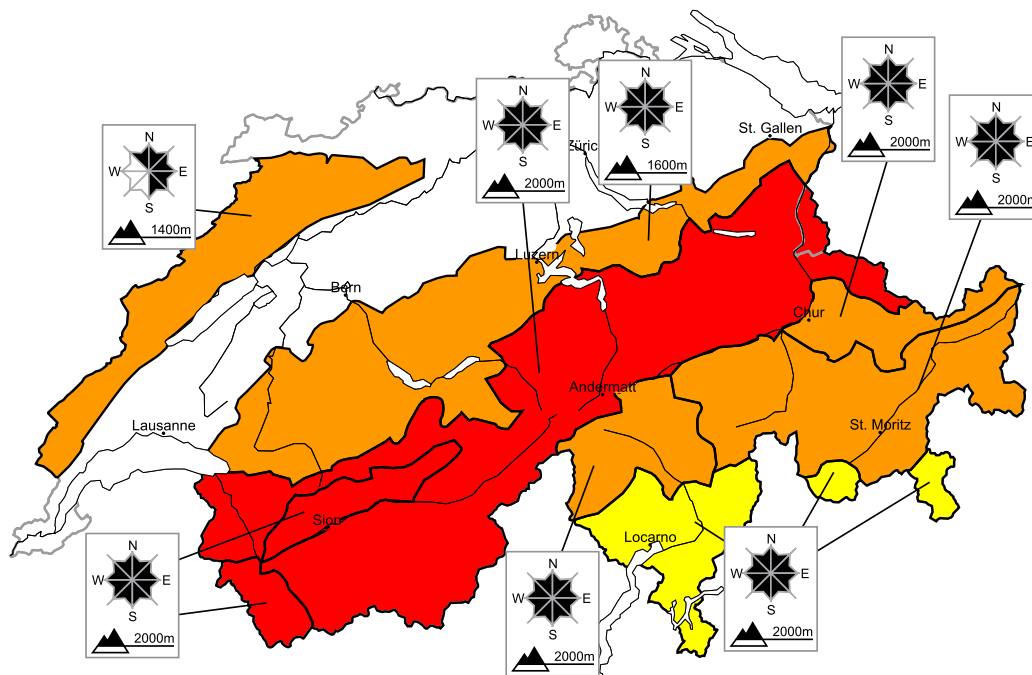


Stormy weather and fresh snow: In the west and in the north a high avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

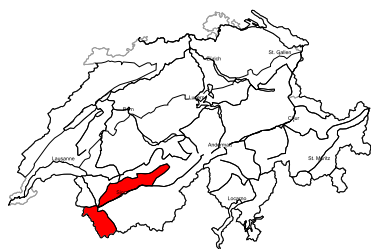
Edition: 18.1.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 18.1.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 18.1.2018, 08:00

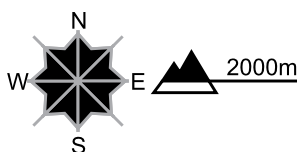


region A Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather large snow drift accumulations have formed. They are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack on west to north to east facing aspects. Numerous medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large natural avalanches are to be expected. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for great caution and restraint.

Full-depth avalanches

More full-depth avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2200 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

Danger levels



1 low



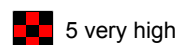
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

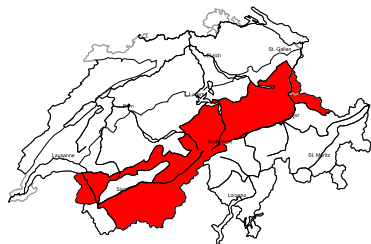


5 very high



region B

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

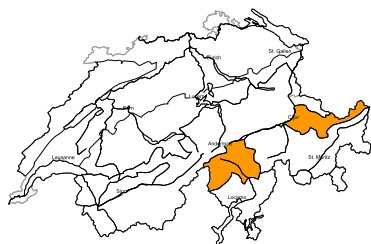
The danger exists primarily in alpine snow sports terrain. As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather large snow drift accumulations have formed. They are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack on west to north to east facing aspects. Avalanches can be released very easily or triggered naturally. They can reach medium size. Individual large avalanches are possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Full-depth avalanches

More full-depth avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2200 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

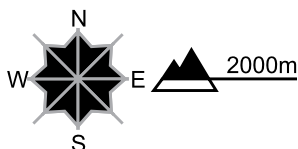
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather snow drift accumulations have formed. They are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack on west to north to east facing aspects. Avalanches can be released very easily and reach medium size. Natural avalanches are possible, in particular in Grisons. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

More full-depth avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2200 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather snow drift accumulations have formed. They are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack on west to north to east facing aspects. Snow drift accumulations can be released very easily. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

Full-depth avalanches

More full-depth avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2200 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

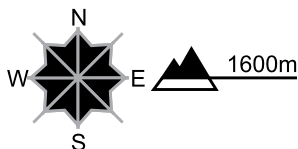
region E

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

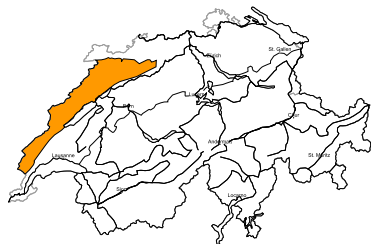
As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released easily. Avalanches can reach medium size in isolated cases. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided in steep terrain. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 1400 m moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of the rain. Individual full-depth avalanches can also occur, especially below approximately 2200 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

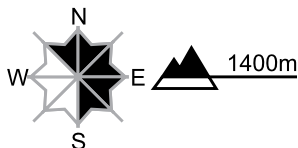
region F

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather snow drift accumulations have formed. These are mostly only small but can be released easily. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided in steep terrain.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of the rain. Individual full-depth avalanches can also occur. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

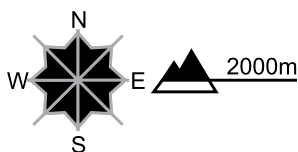
region G

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes storm force wind snow drift accumulations have formed. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack, especially on very steep west, north and east facing slopes. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

Individual full-depth avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.1.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of the snowfall and prevailing winds, wide ranging snowdrift accumulations have formed. Fresh snow and snowdrifts have been deposited on wind-protected west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes above approximately 2000 m, more than anywhere else, now lying on top of an expansively metamorphosed snowpack surface. For that reason avalanches can be triggered with particular ease there, or even be naturally triggered. The released avalanches can grow to medium size. In the major areas of precipitation, also large-sized naturally triggered avalanches can be expected. Avalanches triggered from the old snow cover are no longer likely on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais, in western Ticino and in northern Grisons. Weak ground-level layers inside the snowpack now have thick layers of snow deposited on top of them. On the other hand, avalanche triggerings in the weak ground-level layers of the snow cover continue to be possible in central Grisons, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons. Furthermore, in all regions of Switzerland below approximately 2200 m and in all aspects, gliding avalanches are possible.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 17.01.2018

There was snowfall in the northern regions. The snowfall level was at 1400 m to begin with, subsequently sank down to low lying areas during the night. Only in the furthest southern regions did it remain dry.

Fresh snow

Between the onset of this round of precipitation on Monday evening and Wednesday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow have been registered above 1500 m:

- northern and furthest western parts of the Lower Valais, Lötschental, Glarner Alps: 50 to 80 cm; in the Trient region 100 cm from place to place;
- remaining regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, not including Grindelwald and the eastern part of the Bernese Prealps, also including the remaining parts of the Valais, northwestern Ticino, northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine, Jura region: 30 to 50 cm;
- remaining parts of northern Ticino, remaining parts of central Grisons, southern Lower Engadine, Val Müstair: 15 to 30 cm; in other regions of Switzerland, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -9 °C.

Wind

Winds were blowing at strong to storm strength, from westerly directions during the night, from northwesterly directions during the daytime.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 18.01.2018

In northern regions, snowfall is anticipated, although it will be less intensive than on Wednesday. The snowfall level will initially be at low lying areas, subsequently ascend to 1200 m during the afternoon. In the furthest southern regions it will be partly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above 1500 m:

- Lower Valais, northern part of Alpine Ridge, Prättigau, Silvretta, Samnaun, Jura region: 20 to 40 cm; in the furthest western regions as well as in the northern part of the Alpine Ridge, 50 cm from place to place;
- remaining parts of the Prealps, remaining parts of the Valais, remaining parts of northern and central Grisons, remaining parts of the Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, less; in southern regions it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be blowing at strong to storm strength from westerly directions.

Outlook through Saturday, 20.01.2018

In northern regions, snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. The heaviest snowfall is expected in the western part of the Lower Valais and in the northern sector of the Alpine Ridge. Winds are expected to slacken off somewhat, but will continue to be blowing at strong velocity from westerly directions. Avalanche danger will persist in remaining tense. All backcountry skiers and freeriders with little experience in evaluating avalanche dangers on-site are advised not to leave the secured ski runs.

In southern regions it will be partially sunny on both days. The avalanche situation there is expected to remain predominantly favourable.