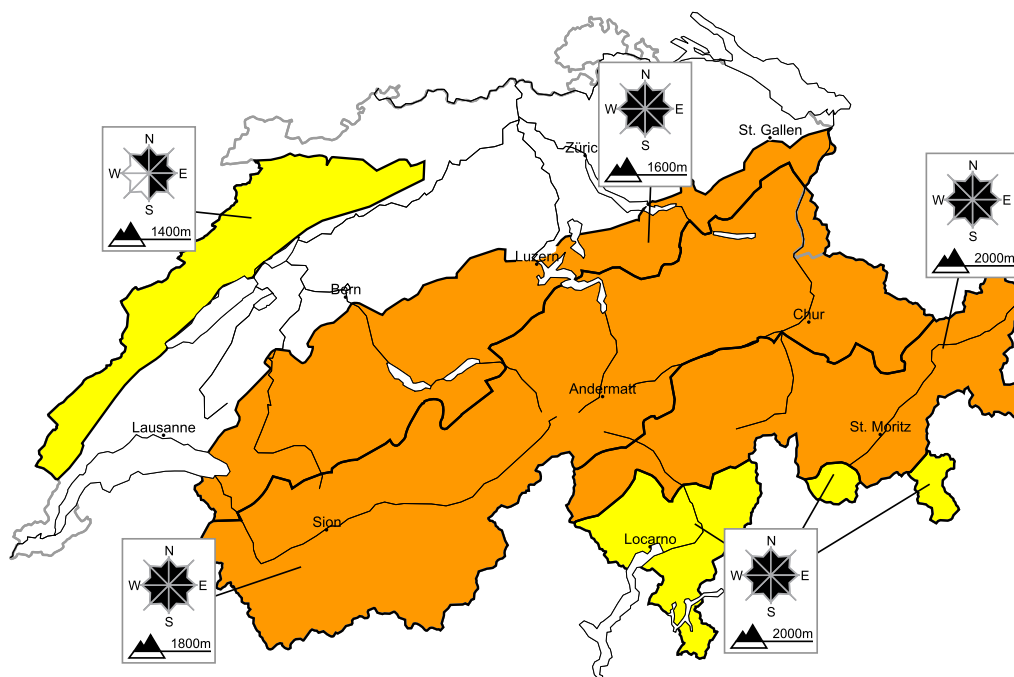


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 20.1.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 20.1.2018, 17:00

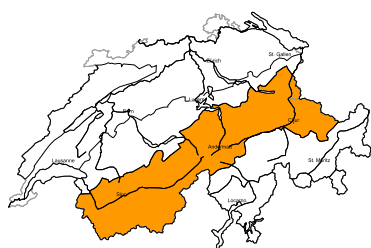
Avalanche danger

updated on 20.1.2018, 08:00



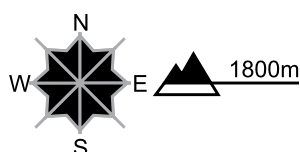
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Individual natural avalanches are possible. In the afternoon as a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather there will be an increase in the avalanche danger. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

Individual 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 can occur on cut slopes.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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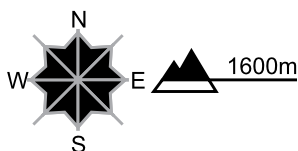
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. In the afternoon as a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather there will be an increase in the avalanche danger. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

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

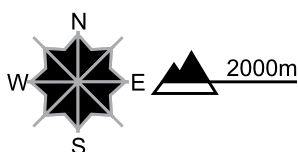
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

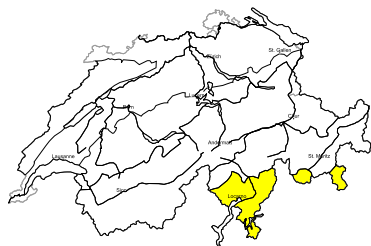
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

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

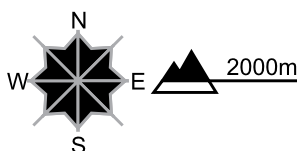
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

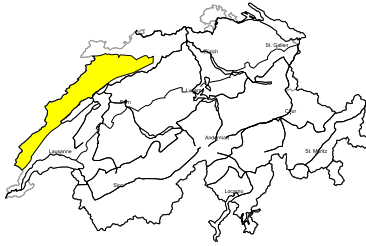


Danger description

The mostly small snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. 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.

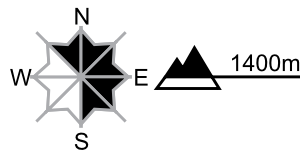
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As the day progresses the previously small snow drift accumulations will increase in size. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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Snowpack and weather

updated on 19.1.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of enduring snowfall and strong velocity westerly winds, additional large-sized snowdrift accumulations have formed in western and northern regions. Fresh snow and freshly formed snowdrifts from this week have been deposited on top of a snowpack surface which is riddled with faceted snow crystals on wind-protected west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes above approximately 2000 m more than anywhere else. Avalanches can be easily triggered from that weak layer in particular, but also inside the more recent layers of snow. This also applies to zones close to the treeline and in sparsely wooded areas. In the major areas of precipitation, naturally triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases.

Avalanche triggerings in the old snow are no longer expected in the Valais, in western Ticino and in northern Grisons. Above the treeline, weak ground-level layers have recently been covered with deep snowfall. In central Grisons, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons, on the other hand, avalanche triggerings continue to be possible in the weak, ground-level layers of the snowpack.

Observed weather on Friday, 19.01.2018

Skies were overcast over widespread areas, accompanied by isolated bright intervals as the snowfall slowly slackened off. The snowfall level descended from 1400 to 1000 m in western regions, down to 600 m in eastern regions. In the furthestmost southern regions it remained dry and it was quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Since the beginning of this round of precipitation on Monday evening until Friday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above 1600 m:

- Valais, eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps: 80 to 110 cm; in the northern part of Lower Valais as much as 150 cm;
- remaining parts of the northern Alpine Ridge, northwestern Ticino, northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine: 60 to 80 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of northern Ticino, central Grisons, remaining parts of Lower Engadine, Jura region: 30 to 60 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland: 10 to 30 cm; in the furthestmost southern regions it remained dry.

Due to the showerlike character of the precipitation, the amounts of fresh snow vary greatly from place to place.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds in western and northern regions were blowing at strong velocity during the night, at strong velocity only in high alpine regions during the daytime, from west to northwest.
- Winds in southern regions were blowing at light to moderate strength from northerly directions.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 20.01.2018

In northern regions skies will be heavily overcast, accompanied by snowfall. During the morning the snowfall will slacken off, subsequently snowfall will intensify again during the afternoon. The snowfall level in western regions will ascend to approximately 1200 m, in eastern and southern regions it will be at 600 m. In the furthestmost southern regions, it will be partly sunny following a night of predominantly clear skies. Subsequently skies will become increasingly overcast there as well over the course of the day.

Fresh snow

Between Friday evening and Saturday evening, the following amounts of snowfall are expected above 1500 m:

- northern flank of the Alps and Valais: 10 to 20 cm; in the Bernese Oberland as much as 30 cm from place to place;
- northern Ticino, northern and central Grisons: 5 to 10 cm; in other regions, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -5 °C in northern regions and -8 °C in southern regions, temperatures increasing further in northern regions during the afternoon.

Wind

Winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity, becoming increasingly stormy during the afternoon, from west to northwest.

Outlook through Monday, 22.01.2018

On Saturday night in western and northern regions, intensive precipitation is expected to set in, accompanied by storm-strength northwesterly winds. The snowfall level will be at low lying areas to begin with, subsequently ascend to approximately 1200 m on Sunday. The intensive and heavy precipitation is expected to continue also on Monday. On Sunday night, the snowfall level will briefly ascend to approximately 2000 m in western regions, and to approximately 1500 m in eastern regions. The avalanche danger will increase over widespread areas. In the major areas of precipitation in western and in northern regions, avalanche danger is expected to reach level 4 (high) over widespread areas. On Monday in western and northern regions, even danger level 5 (very high) could be reached from region to region. For backcountry freeriders and skiers, conditions will be unfavourable away from the secured ski runs. Only in the furthestmost southern regions is the avalanche danger not expected to change significantly.