Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 29 January 2018

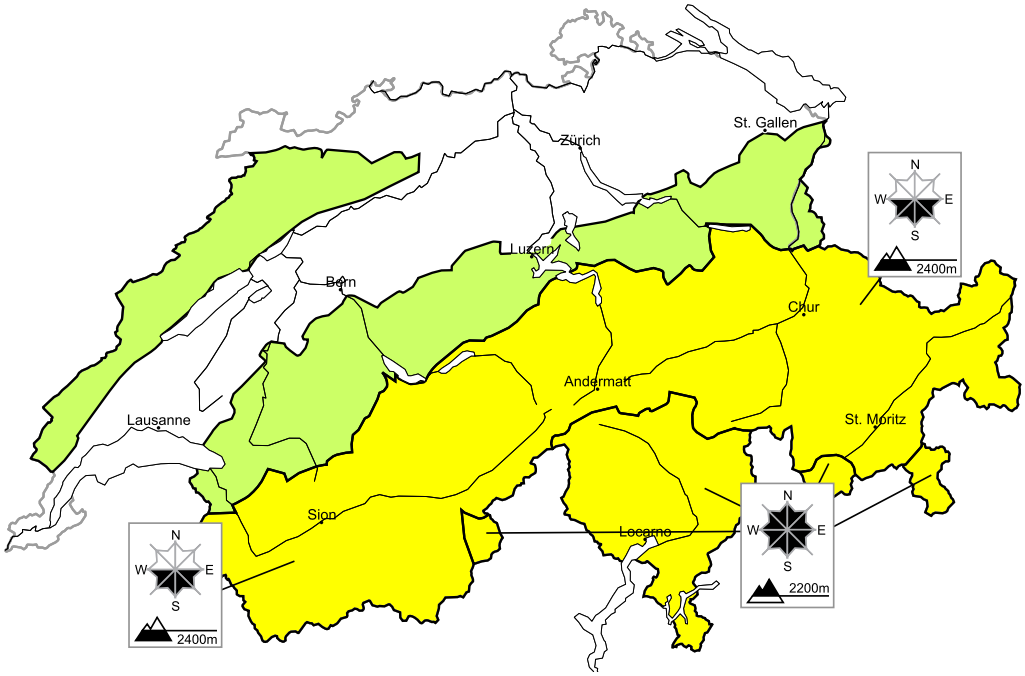
29.1.2018, 07:22

Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks

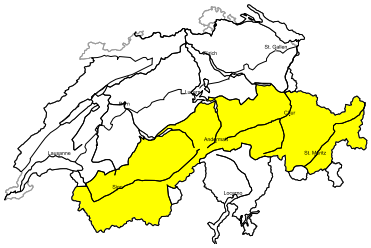
Edition: 29.1.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 29.1.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 29.1.2018, 08:00

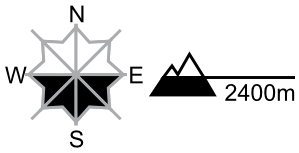


region A — Level 2, moderate



Full-depth avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large full-depth avalanches are possible. They can be released at any time of day or night. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

Old snow

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in near-surface layers, in particular by large additional loads. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls. Very steep shady slopes are to be traversed by snow sport participants one at a time.

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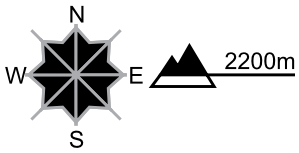
region B — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



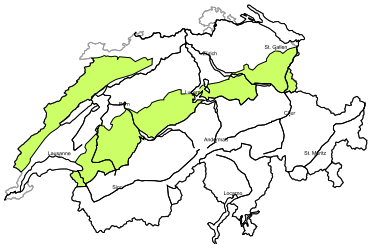
Danger description

The mostly small snow drift accumulations of the weekend represent the main danger. They can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. At high altitudes and in high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2200 m full-depth avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes. They can be released at any time of day or night. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region C — Level 1, low



Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes full-depth avalanches are possible. They can be released at any time of day or night. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Old snow

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 28.1.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

On Sunday, small-sized but easily triggerable snowdrift accumulations formed on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom.
The snow cover is favourably structured for the most part. From place to place, avalanches can be triggered in the uppermost layers of the snowpack, mostly by large additional loading. In central Grisons, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons, the lowermost fundament of the snowpack is somewhat weaker than in the other regions of Switzerland. But even there, these weakened layers are now covered by well consolidated snow, so that avalanches are unlikely to fracture down to these ground-level layers.
Below approximately 2400 m, new glide cracks are forming afresh. Gliding avalanches can trigger naturally at any time, including relatively large-sized avalanches. This is particularly the case on steep east-facing, south-facing and west-facing slopes with smooth ground surfaces.

Observed weather on Sunday, 28.01.2018

Following a night of clear skies, it was intermittently sunny during the day in spite of high altitude cloudbanks.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in northern regions, +1 °C; and in southern regions, +4 °C.

Wind

Winds were blowing at light strength from westerly directions.

Weather forecast through Monday, 29.01.2018

Nighttime skies will be clear. During the daytime it will be sunny and mild in the mountains. In the Prealps there will be high fog with a ceiling between 1600 and 2000 m.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in western regions +4 °C; in eastern regions +2 °C; and in southern regions +5 °C.

Wind

Winds will be predominantly light from westerly directions.

Outlook through Wednesday, 31.01.2018

On Tuesday it will be sunny. On Wednesday, cloud cover will move in from the north incrementally over the course of the day. It will remain dry.
The danger of dry-snow avalanches will continue to diminish. Gliding avalanches can trigger at any time of day or night, including quite large-sized avalanches.