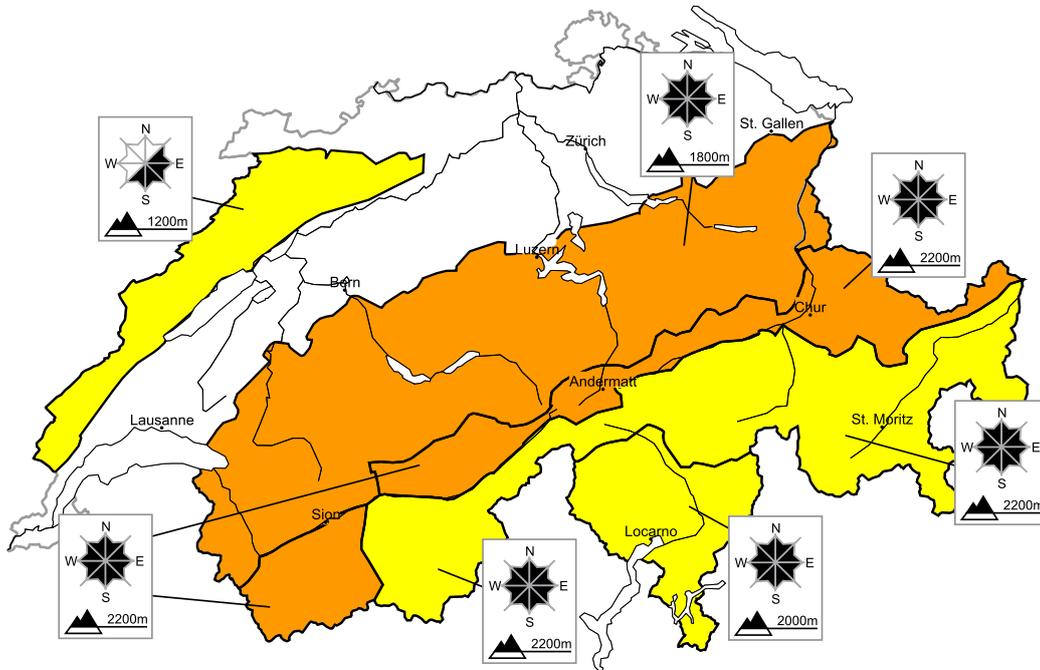


In the north a considerable avalanche danger will prevail. Snow drifts require caution

Edition: 13.2.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 13.2.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 13.2.2018, 08:00

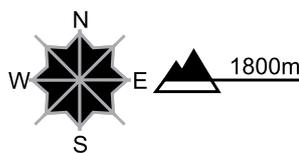


region A Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

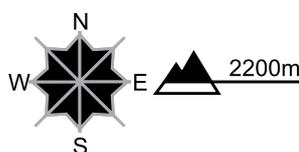
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released easily and reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region B Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

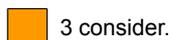
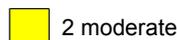
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released easily. They can in some cases reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Defensive route selection is important.

Danger levels



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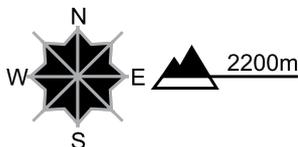
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations are small but can be released easily. They are to be found adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls. Careful route selection is recommended.

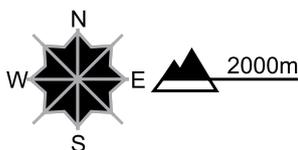
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations are small but can be released easily. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls. Careful route selection is recommended.

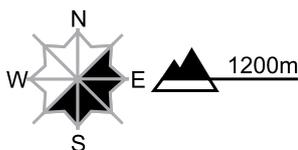
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations are small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 13.2.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on top of old near-surface layers which, on north facing slopes in particular, are loosely bonded over a wide area and consist of faceted old snow or surface hoar. For this reason these accumulations can be released easily in many places. Given that they remain very loosely bonded, however, fracture propagation is fairly poor.

Elsewhere the bonding of the snowpack is mostly favourable. In central Grisons, Engadine, the Grisons southern valleys, and Ticino, the base of the snowpack is covered by well bonded snow and is a little weaker in some areas here than in the other regions. Avalanches are now highly unlikely to be triggered, however, in these deep layers.

Gliding avalanches cannot be ruled out, either on steep smooth slopes below approximately 2400 m, in particular those facing east, south and west, or in isolated cases on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 13.02.2018

On the southern flank of the Alps, the weather was quite sunny. There were bright spells in the Jura in the morning, and in the other regions from the late afternoon. Otherwise it was mostly overcast. In the north snow fell even at low altitudes, but in the afternoon it was only light.

Fresh snow

In the period to Monday afternoon the following amounts of snow fell above approximately 1000 m:

- Northern flank of the Alps: 20 to 40 cm, and a little more in some localities
- Lower Valais, northern Valais, the Gotthard region, northern Grisons, Jura: 10 to 20 cm
- Other regions: a few centimetres, but the southern flank of the Alps remained mostly dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -12 °C in the north and -8 °C in the south

Wind

From the northwest to north

- On the main Alpine ridge from the Simplon region to Engadine and to the south, and at elevated altitudes in all regions, moderate, but strong in isolated cases
- Otherwise mostly light

Weather forecast for Tuesday, 13.02.2018

During the night the snowfall will cease in the north and the skies will clear from the west. During the day the weather will be sunny.

Fresh snow

A few centimetres in the north and east

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -11 °C

Wind

- During the night at elevated altitudes and on the southern flank of the Alps, remaining moderate from the north
- During the day, light, veering westerly

Outlook through Thursday, 15.02.2018

Wednesday

In the north there will be low stratus-like cloud cover in the morning. Otherwise it will remain mostly sunny with light winds. The avalanche danger will decrease only slowly because of the low temperatures.

Thursday

As a consequence of a warm front, snow will fall in the north. The snowfall level will rise from the west to approximately 1800 m. The avalanche danger will increase on the northern flank of the Alps in particular, but not change significantly in the south.