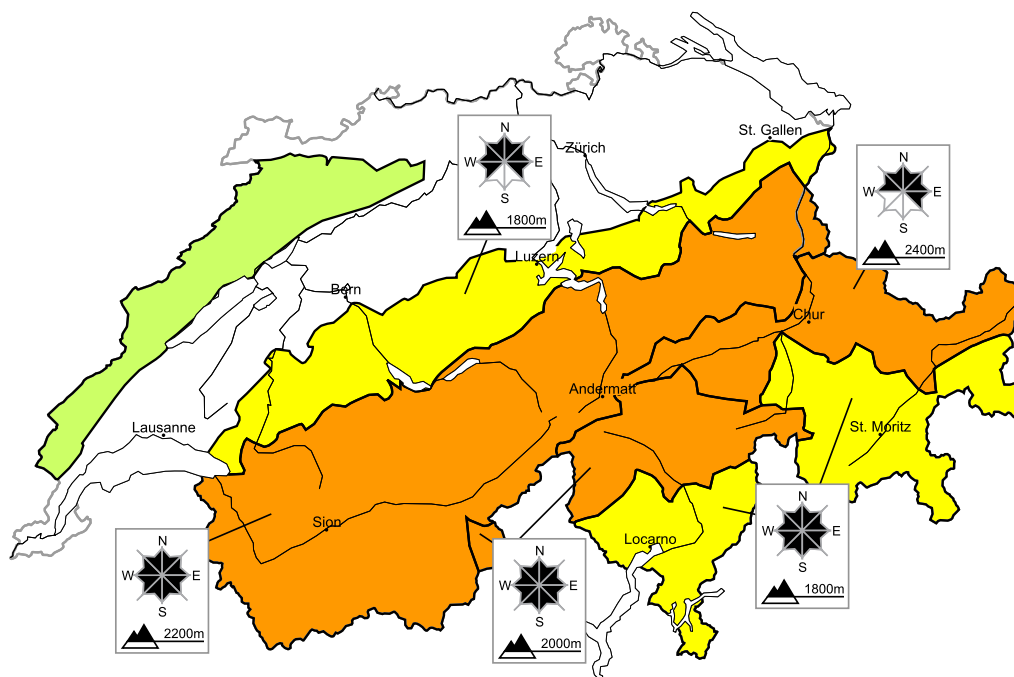


Outside marked and open pistes a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 18.2.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 18.2.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 18.2.2018, 08:00



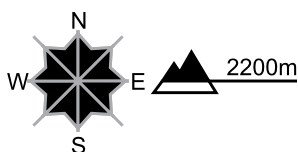
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

Full-depth avalanches are possible, especially on east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m as well as on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the northerly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. They are to be bypassed in steep terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Full-depth avalanches

Full-depth avalanches are possible, especially on east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m as well as on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

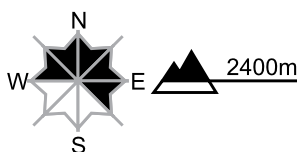
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

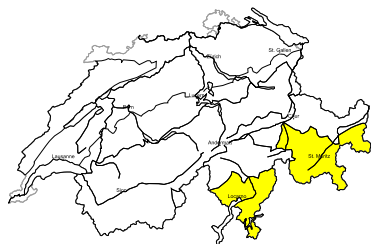
Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Full-depth avalanches

Full-depth avalanches are possible, especially on east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m as well as on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

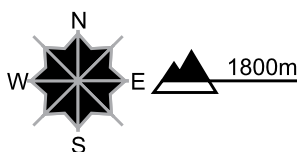
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but prone to triggering. 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 also in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls. Careful route selection is recommended.

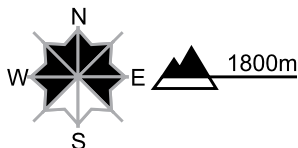
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

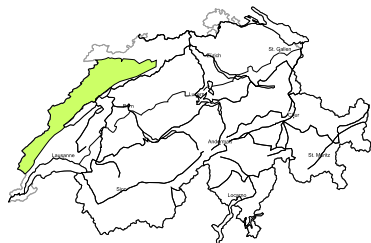
Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found especially adjacent to the ridge line. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. Careful route selection is required.

Full-depth avalanches

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

region F

Level 1, low



Fresh snow

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.2.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

The highly varied layers of fresh snow and freshly formed snowdrift accumulations from the last few days remain prone to triggering in some high altitude locations. As a result of fresh snow and winds, additional snowdrift accumulations will be generated. As the end of this period of snowfall approaches, winds will slacken off and loosely-packed fresh snow will blanket the danger zones. That will make the avalanche prone locations difficult to recognize.

Beneath these fresher layers of snow from the last few days, the snowpack is favourably structured for the most part. In central Grisons, in the Engadine, in the southern valleys of Grisons and in the Ticino, the lowermost fundament of the snowpack is somewhat weaker than in the other regions of Switzerland from place to place. Nevertheless, an avalanche triggering in these layers is hardly possible any longer.

As a result of decreasing temperatures the snowpack, which is wet below approximately 2000 m in many areas, will stabilize. Nevertheless, gliding avalanches continue to be possible.

Observed weather on Saturday, 17.02.2018

Skies were partially clear during the night. During the morning in eastern regions, there were some bright intervals. In the other regions of Switzerland, snowfall rapidly set in from the west. By evening the snowfall level descended from 1700 m down to approximately 1000 m.

Fresh snow

By Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 1800 m:

- northern and furthestmost western parts of Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, western Jura region: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; in southern regions, no snow whatever.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -4 °C in Ticino and +1 °C in the other regions of Switzerland.

Wind

- Nocturnal winds were blowing at light to moderate strength;
- during the daytime blowing at moderate to strong velocity in western regions and on the Main Alpine Ridge from the Gotthard region into the Upper Engadine; in other regions blowing at predominantly light strength, from southerly to southwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 18.02.2018

During the night in northern regions, a small amount of additional snowfall is anticipated. The snowfall level will descend to approximately 1000 m. During the daytime along the Prealps, skies will remain persistently overcast. In the inneralpine regions it will become increasingly sunny at high altitudes. In southern regions it will be predominantly sunny as a result of northerly winds.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above approximately 1200 m:

- western part of Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons: 5 to 10 cm over widespread areas; between Haslital and Alpstein as much as 20 cm;
- remaining parts of the Valais and Grisons, Jura region: only a few centimeters;
- central sector of the southern flank of the Alps: it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds will first shift from southwesterly to northerly, subsequently to easterly. During the nighttime hours, winds will be blowing for a brief interval at strong velocity; winds will also be strong in southern regions. In other regions, winds will be generally light to moderate.

Outlook through Tuesday, 20.02.2018

On Monday, it will be quite sunny in all regions above the high fog. During the afternoon, cloud cover will move in from the north. In southern regions it will be partly sunny. On Tuesday, a small amount of snowfall down to low lying areas is expected widespread. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will decrease somewhat on Monday. On Tuesday, no significant change is expected. Wet-snow avalanches are no longer to be expected, due to the decreasing temperatures. Gliding avalanches continue to be possible.