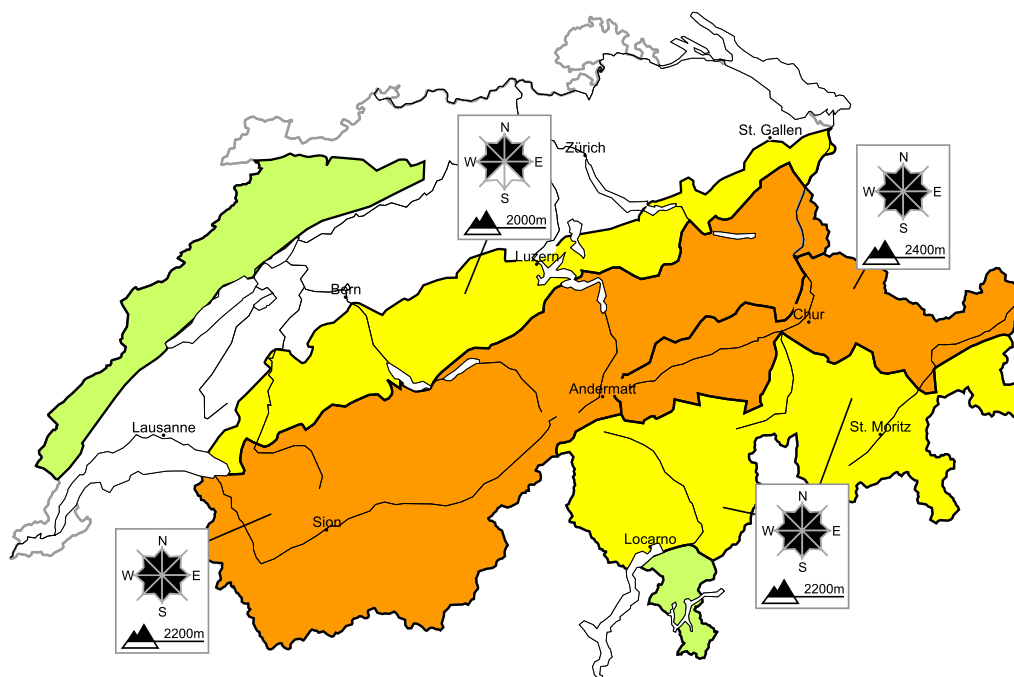


Outside marked and open pistes a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 19.2.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 19.2.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 19.2.2018, 08:00



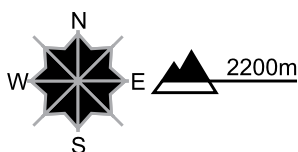
region A

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.

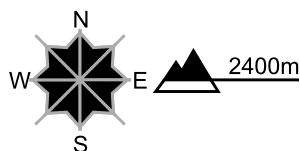
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

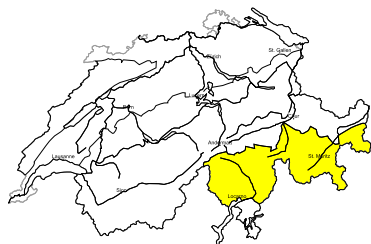
Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when 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.

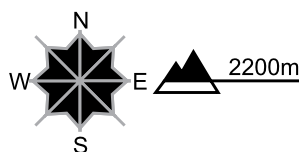
region C

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 important.

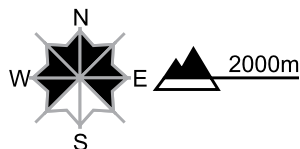
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

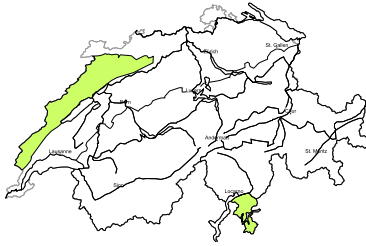
Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found especially adjacent to the ridge line. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

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

region E

Level 1, low



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 18.2.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

The highly varied layers of fresh snow and freshly formed snowdrift accumulations from the last few days have been deposited to some extent on top of surface hoar or on weak layers of faceted snow crystals. They remain prone to triggering in high altitude locations. The avalanche prone locations have been blanketed by fresher snow in some places, which makes them 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.

Below approximately 2000 m the snowpack, which is wet in many areas, is stabilizing as a result of the lower temperatures. Gliding avalanches continue to be possible. Due to the depths of the snowpack, such avalanches could grow to dangerously large size.

Observed weather on Sunday, 18.02.2018

This round of snowfall came to an end during the nighttime hours. The snowfall level descended down to low lying areas. During the daytime in southern regions and above approximately 2500 m in general it was predominantly sunny. Elsewhere skies were overcast.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday morning and Sunday morning, the following amounts of snowfall were registered above approximately 1800 m:

- northern flank of the Alps, northern part of Valais, Lower Valais, Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm; in the furthestmost western part of Lower Valais as much as 30 cm;
- remaining parts of Valais and Grisons, Jura region: 10 cm maximum;
- in Ticino it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C in northern regions and -3 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds were northerly

- during the night, blowing at moderate to strong velocity in eastern and southern regions, at light to moderate strength in the other regions of Switzerland;
- during the daytime, blowing at predominantly light strength, intermittently at moderate strength on the Main Alpine Ridge.

Weather forecast through Monday, 19.02.2018

Below approximately 1500 m in northern regions, high fog will prevail. Above that altitude it will be predominantly sunny. During the afternoon, cloud cover will move in from the north. In southern regions, a small amount of snowfall is expected above approximately 700 m during the nocturnal hours. During the daytime it will be partly sunny.

Fresh snow

In southern regions, only a few centimeters.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C.

Wind

Winds will be blowing predominantly at light strength, at high altitudes intensifying to moderate velocity over the course of the day, from northerly directions.

Outlook through Wednesday, 21.02.2018

On Tuesday in northern regions, skies will be overcast for the most part, in southern regions partly sunny. Along the Prealps a small amount of snowfall is possible. On Wednesday, skies will frequently be overcast and it will be cold, accompanied by moderate to strong velocity bise wind. Along the Prealps a small amount of snowfall is possible. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will incrementally decrease. Gliding avalanches continue to be possible in isolated cases.