Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 22 February 2018

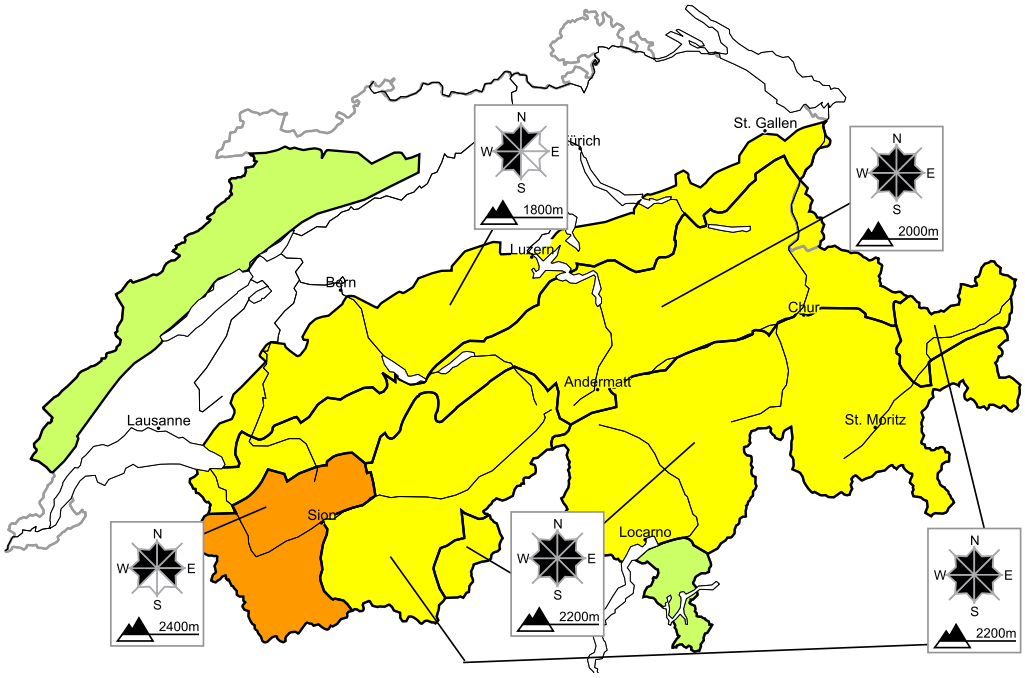
22.2.2018, 07:31

In the west a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 22.2.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 22.2.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

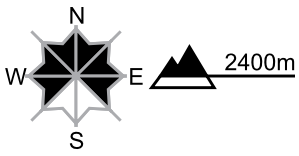
updated on 22.2.2018, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers, even by a single winter sport participant. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger. The conditions at elevated altitudes are treacherous.
As a consequence of the northeasterly wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations will form. These are in many cases small but prone to triggering. They can be released easily, even by a single winter sport participant,. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

Individual 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.

Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 consider. 4 high 5 very high

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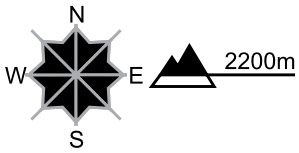
region B — Level 2, moderate

Old snow, snow drifts

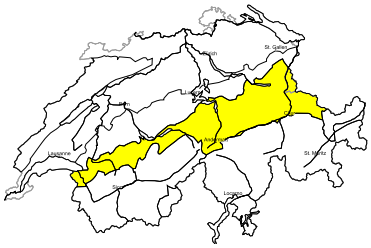
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

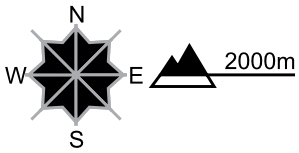
Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers in particular on very steep slopes. The avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Careful route selection is important.
As a consequence of the northeasterly wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations will form. These are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be avoided in particular in very steep terrain.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Weak layers in the upper part of the snowpack can be released by people in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Careful route selection is important.
As a consequence of the northeasterly wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations will form. These are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be avoided in particular in very steep terrain.

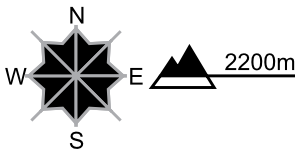
Full-depth avalanches

Individual 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.

region D — Level 2, moderate

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Weak layers in the upper part of the snowpack can be released by people in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Careful route selection is important.
As a consequence of the northeasterly wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations will form. These are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be avoided in particular in very steep terrain.

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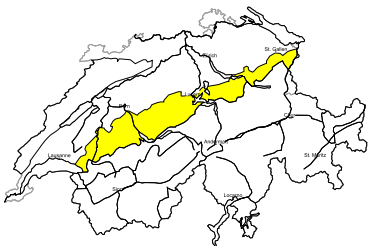
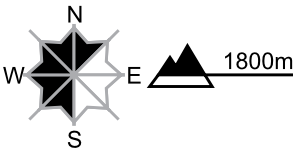
region E — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



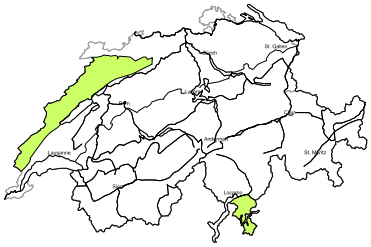
Danger description

As a consequence of the Bise wind easily released snow drift accumulations will form. They are mostly small. The snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. They are to be avoided in particular in very steep terrain.

Full-depth avalanches

Isolated full-depth avalanches are possible in all aspects.

region F — Level 1, low



Snow drifts

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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.2.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

The highly varied layers of fresh snow and freshly formed snowdrift accumulations of this last week have been deposited to some extent on top of surface hoar or weak layers of faceted snow crystals. These layers are deepest in western and in northern regions. Avalanche triggerings by persons continue to be possible in the uppermost layers of the snow cover, but the likelihood of triggering has diminished somewhat. These avalanche prone locations have often been blanketed by fresher snow and can hardly be recognized in outlying terrain. As a result of bise winds, easily recognizable, predominantly small-sized snowdrift accumulations are expected to form along the Prealps, as well as in ridgeline terrain and pass zones, more than anywhere else.
The mid-level and lowermost layers of the snow cover are well consolidated and stable. 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. However, avalanche triggerings in these more deeply embedded layers are no longer likely.
Isolated gliding avalanches continue to be possible, These avalanches can grow to dangerously large size as a result of the above-average depth of the snowpack.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 21.02.2018

In northern regions is was predominantly sunny above the high fog; in southern regions it was mostly sunny at all altitudes.

Fresh snow
It has been snowing since Tuesday morning,
- from the Lower Valais over the Northern Alpine Ridge as far as northern and central Grisons, bringing as much as 10 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, less.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -11 °C in eastern regions and -7 °C in the other regions of Switzerland.

Wind
Mountain winds were blowing at light to moderate strength from the northeast. In the western part of the Prealps and in the Jura region, a moderate to strong bise wind prevailed.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 22.02.2018

In northern regions it will be predominantly sunny above the high fog. In southern regions, skies will be overcast and a small amount of snowfall down to approximately 500 m is anticipated in the afternoon.

Fresh snow
Only a few centimeters, on the northern flank of the Alps on Wednesday night, during the afternoon on the southern flank of the Alps.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -7 °C.

Wind
Moderate to, from place to place, strong velocity northeasterly winds in the mountains; in the Prealps, moderate to strong bise wind.

Outlook through Saturday, 24.02.2018

In northern regions there will be intermittent sunshine above the high fog on both days. It will be quite sunny in the Valais. On the southern flank of the Alps, skies will for the most part be overcast and a small amount of snowfall down to low lying areas is anticipated. On Saturday, it will be slightly warmer for a brief interim.
Avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.