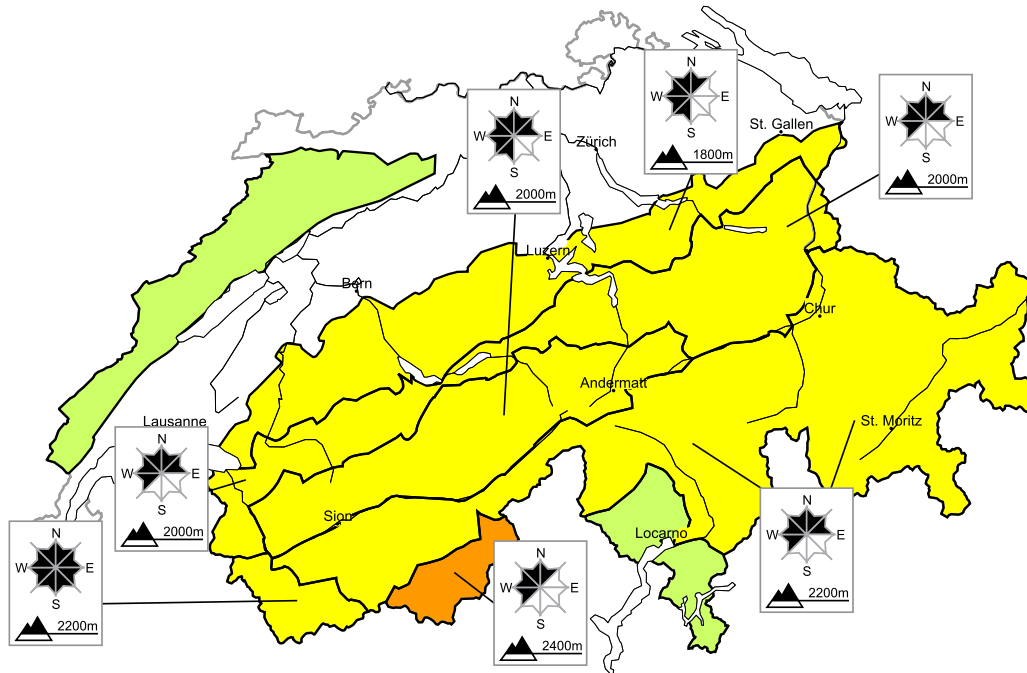


In southern Upper Valais a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 24.2.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 24.2.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 24.2.2018, 08:00



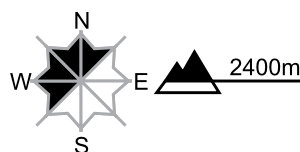
region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind snow drift accumulations have formed. These are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.

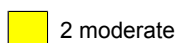
Old snow

Weak layers in the upper part of the snowpack can be released by people in particular in little used backcountry terrain. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on very steep shady slopes above approximately 2200 m. They are rather rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Careful route selection is important.

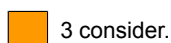
Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

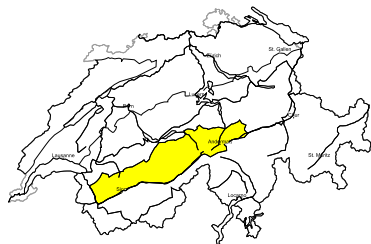


5 very high



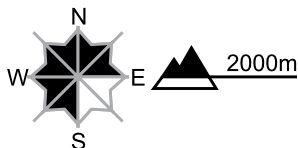
region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind mostly small snow drift accumulations have formed. In high Alpine regions the snow drift accumulations are larger. They are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. The fresh snow drift accumulations can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant. They are to be avoided as far as possible.

Old snow

Weak layers in the upper part of the snowpack can be released by people in particular in little used backcountry terrain. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Careful route selection is important.

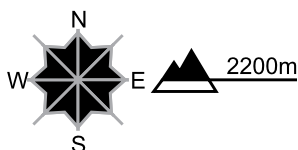
region C

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



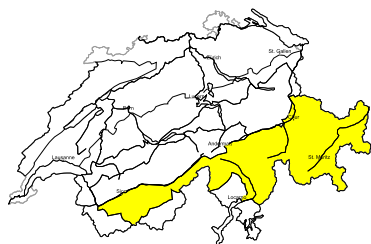
Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers, this applies even in case of a single winter sport participant in isolated cases. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and barely recognisable. The conditions are treacherous. Defensive route selection is recommended.

The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in many cases small but in some cases prone to triggering. They can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep slopes.

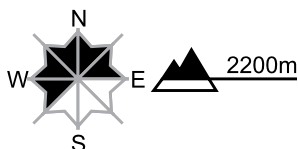
region D

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

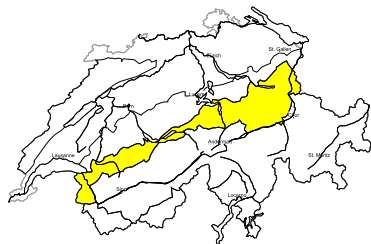
Weak layers in the upper part of the snowpack can be released by people in particular in little used backcountry terrain. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Careful route selection is important.

Snow drifts

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular on west and north facing slopes. In high Alpine regions the snow drift accumulations are larger. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided in very steep terrain.

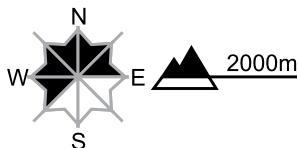
region E

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

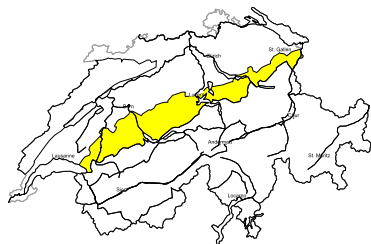
Weak layers in the upper part of the snowpack can be released by people in particular in little used backcountry terrain. The avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Careful route selection is recommended.

Snow drifts

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular on west and north facing slopes. In high Alpine regions the snow drift accumulations are larger. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided in very steep terrain.

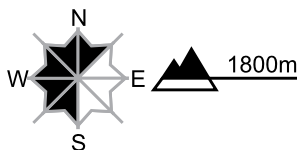
region F

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

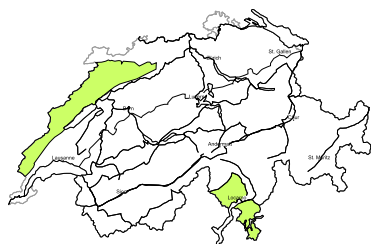


Danger description

As a consequence of the Bise wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed, in particular adjacent to the ridge line as well as in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The snow drift accumulations are mostly small. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. 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.

region G

Level 1, low



A favourable avalanche situation will prevail. 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 23.2.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of bise wind over the last few days along the Prealps more than anywhere else, but also in pass areas and terrain adjacent to ridgelines, easily visible, generally small-sized snowdrift accumulations have been generated. In the uppermost layers of the snowpack there are weak layers evident in all regions of Switzerland, consisting of surface hoar or layers of faceted snow crystals. In isolated cases these can still be triggered by persons. The avalanche prone locations occur rather seldom, but are nearly impossible to recognize even for those with much experience in outlying terrain.

The mid-level and lowermost layers of the snowpack are well consolidated and stable over widespread areas. In central Grisons, in the Engadine, in the southern valleys of Grisons and in the Ticino, the lowermost fundament of the snow cover is somewhat weaker. Nevertheless, avalanche triggerings in these deeply embedded layers are no longer likely.

Observed weather on Friday, 23.02.2018

In Grisons it was partly sunny. In the other regions of Switzerland, skies were frequently overcast, accompanied by windows of sunshine, particularly in western Valais and in Northern regions above approximately 1800 m. From region to region, a few snowflakes drifted down from the sky.

Fresh snow

In the Upper Valais part of the Main Alpine Ridge, just a few centimeters.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in northern regions and -6 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds were blowing at light to moderate strength, at strong velocity in some places at high altitudes on the northern Alpine Ridge from Les Diablerets as far as Titlis, from the southeast;
- in the Prealps, light to moderate bise wind, strong in some places in the Jura region.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 24.02.2018

In northern regions, high fog will prevail with a ceiling at 1400 to 1700 m. Above the fog and in the inneralpine regions in general, it will be predominantly sunny. In the Valais part of the Main Alpine Ridge and in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, skies will be mostly overcast. Until midday, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated in the Valais more than anywhere else.

Fresh snow

Between Friday evening and Saturday evening, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above approximately 1000 m:

- Upper Valais part of Main Alpine Ridge from Monte Rosa into the Simplon region: 10 to 20 cm; more from place to place;
- Lower Valais part of Main Alpine Ridge along the Italian border, remaining parts of Upper Valais: only a few centimeters.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in northern regions and -1 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be easterly to southeasterly,

- blowing in the early morning hours in the Valais and in the western and central sectors of the northern flank of the Alps at strong velocity in places;
- in other regions of Switzerland, predominantly light to moderate in strength.

Outlook through Monday, 26.02.2018

Sunday

The bise wind is expected to persist and temperatures will drop again. In northern regions, high fog will prevail, with a ceiling ascending from 1500 to 2200 m. Above the fog and in the inneralpine regions in general, it will be predominantly sunny. In southern regions, skies will be overcast and a small amount of snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. The avalanche danger levels in the major areas of precipitation on Saturday, that is, from Monte Rosa to the Simplon region, will incrementally recede. In the other regions, danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Monday

The bise-wind airstream will intensify. Apart from the banks of high fog in northern regions, it will be mostly sunny, but very cold. The avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.