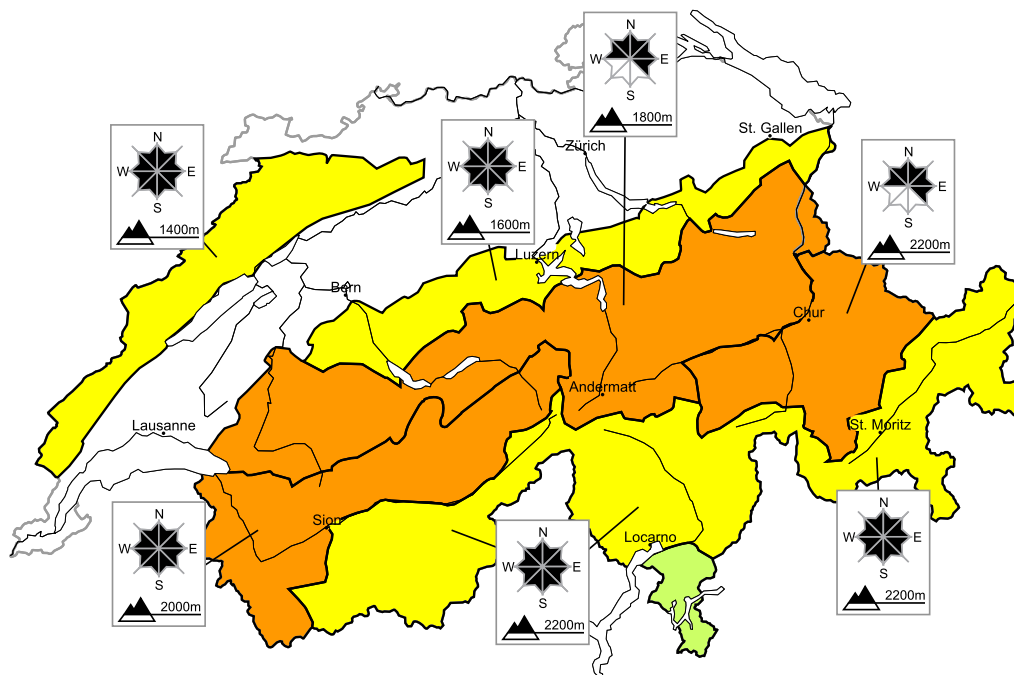


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 2.3.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 2.3.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 2.3.2018, 08:00



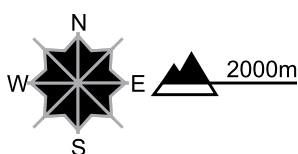
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

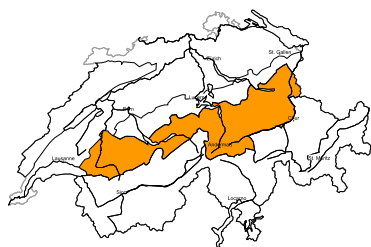
5 very high



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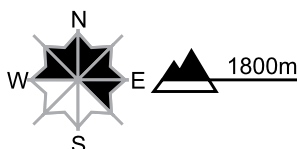
region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

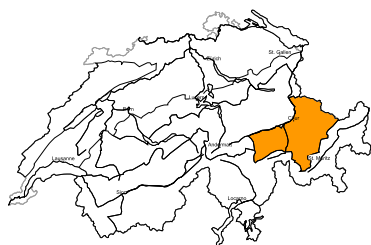


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind the previously small snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

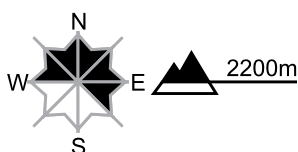
region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind the previously small snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Mostly these are small. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

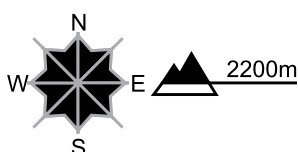
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the southerly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. They are mostly small but can be released easily. Adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas the snow drift accumulations are larger. Weak layers in the upper part of the snowpack can be released in isolated cases and mostly by large additional loads in particular in little used backcountry terrain. These avalanche prone locations are very rare but barely recognisable. Meticulous route selection is recommended.

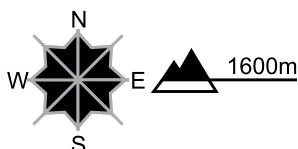
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

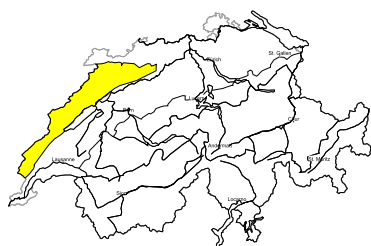


Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in 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.

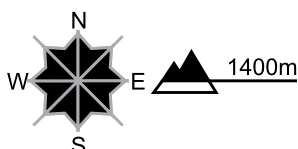
region F

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

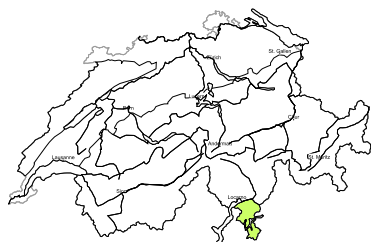


Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in 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 1.3.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

Southerly winds at high altitudes and foehn wind in the foehn-exposed regions of the north have generated small-to-medium sized snowdrift accumulations. These drifted masses are expected to grow somewhat further in size and frequency on Friday, as a result of fresh snow and wind. Fresh snow and freshly formed snowdrift accumulations were deposited in wind-protected terrain on top of a loosely-packed layer riddled with faceted snow crystals and, in some places, surface hoar. Particularly in those zones, the drifts are highly prone to triggering. On steep, south-facing slopes there is generally a melt-freeze crust beneath the fresh snow.

Furthermore, in the uppermost part of the snowpack there are isolated older weak layers which are still prone to triggering in some places. These avalanche prone locations are nearly impossible to recognize.

Observed weather on Thursday, 01.03.2018

Skies were heavily overcast and over widespread areas there was snowfall down to low lying altitudes. These slackened off to mere showers during the afternoon. In western regions, the snowfall level ascended to approximately 1400 m. In the inneralpine regions there were intermittent bright intervals.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of snow were registered above approximately 1000 m:

- Jura region, western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, furthestmost western part of Lower Valais, northern Valais not including Goms: 10 to 20 cm; in the northern Lower Valais as much as 30 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, Upper Valais: 5 to 10 cm; in other regions, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in northern regions and -12 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds at high altitude were blowing at moderate to strong velocity from southerly directions;
- in the foehn-exposed regions of the north, strong southerly foehn wind in places;
- south of the Main Alpine Ridge, light southerly winds were blowing.

Weather forecast through Friday, 02.03.2018

Nighttime skies are expected to be partially clear. In western and southern regions, cloud cover will swiftly move in and during the morning, snowfall will set in. The snowfall level will ascend to approximately 800 m. In eastern regions, skies will still be bright during the early morning hours before cloud cover moves in there as well and snowfall sets in starting at midday.

Fresh snow

- Jura region, northern flank of the Alps, Valais: 5 to 15 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: only a few centimeters; or else it will remain dry.

Temperature

Temperatures will drop during the course of the day, coming from the west. At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in western regions and 0 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

- Nocturnal winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from southerly directions, in the foehn-exposed regions of the north the southerly foehn wind will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity in places.
- During the daytime: in the early morning hours, winds will slacken off and shift to westerly; subsequently intensifying during the afternoon, reaching moderate to strong velocity.

Outlook through Sunday, 04.03.2018

Saturday

Skies will be heavily overcast for the most part and above approximately 1000 m a small amount of snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas, most of it in the furthestmost western regions. During the afternoon, bright intervals are expected. At high altitudes, a strong-velocity southwesterly wind will be blowing. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.

Sunday

During the night in northern regions, a small amount of additional snowfall is anticipated. During the daytime, it will be predominantly sunny, only partly sunny in western regions, subsequently it will become increasingly overcast during the afternoon. The avalanche danger will diminish incrementally.