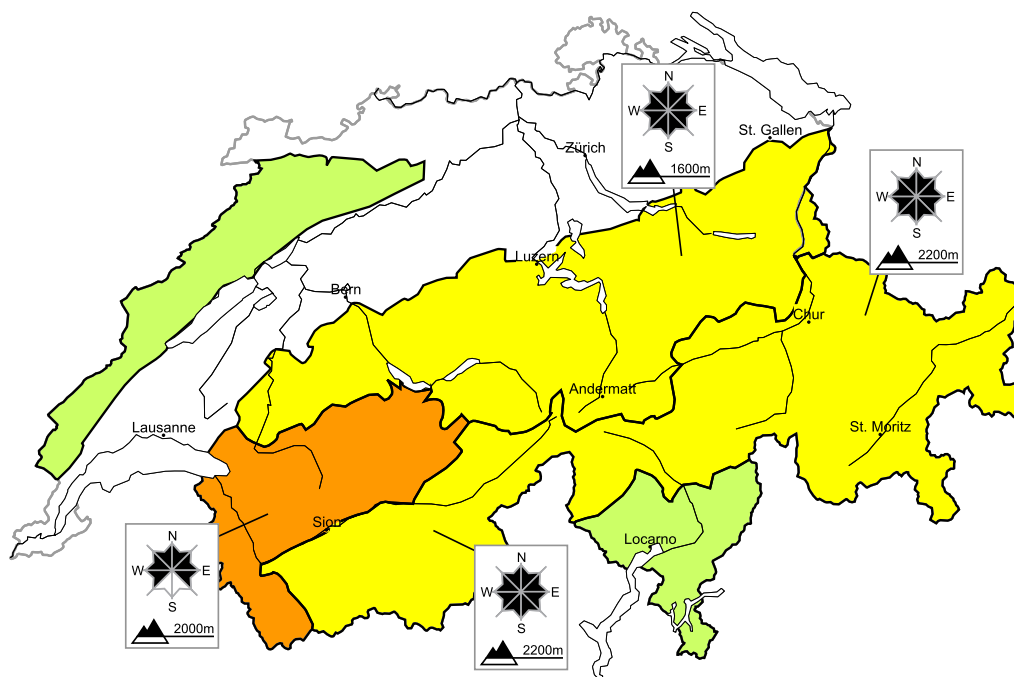


In the west a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Snow drifts require caution

Edition: 5.3.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 5.3.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 5.3.2018, 08:00



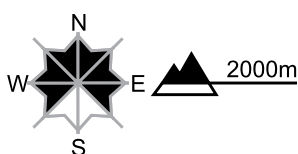
region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days represent the main danger. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on steep west, north and east facing slopes and adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects. They are sometimes covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. They can reach medium size in isolated cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes mostly small full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are possible as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

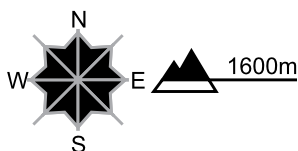
region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

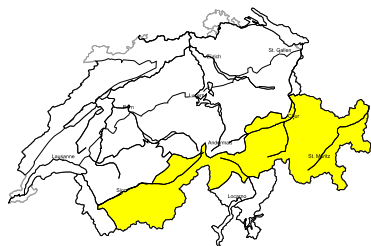
The snow drift accumulations of the last few days represent the main danger. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Mostly avalanches are small but easily released. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided 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.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes small full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are possible as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

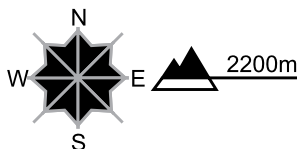
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

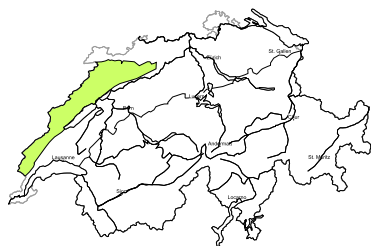
The snow drift accumulations of the last few days represent the main danger. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Mostly avalanches are small but easily released. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided 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.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes small full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are possible as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

region D

Level 1, low

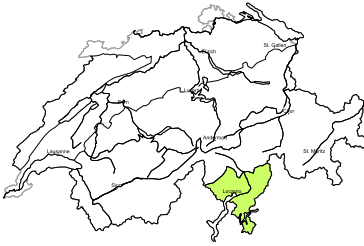


Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small moist snow slides and avalanches are possible.

region E

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 4.3.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

Freshly generated and somewhat older snowdrift accumulations have in many places been deposited on top of a loosely-packed old snowpack surface riddled with faceted crystals or atop surface hoar. For that reason, these layers can be triggered even by the weight of one single skier or freerider. In western regions where during the last few days most of the snowfall has been registered, avalanches can grow to medium size; in the other regions of Switzerland they will tend to remain small-sized. The somewhat older snowdrift accumulations have now been blanketed by fresher snow and are therefore very difficult to recognize. The freshly generated snowdrift accumulations are for the most part easy to recognize. As a result of solar radiation and the heightened temperatures, the snowpack surface on very steep, sunny slopes below approximately 2200 m is moistened on the uppermost surface. On Monday, particularly on very steep, sunny slopes in northern regions, moist sluffs will once again be possible.

Observed weather on Sunday, 04.03.2018

In the early part of the night in eastern regions, there was a small amount of precipitation. Subsequently, skies cleared up. During the daytime it was sunny, apart from some high-altitude cloudbanks. During the afternoon, cloud cover moved in from the west.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Saturday evening, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 1500 m (which fell amidst precipitation-free interims):

- furthestmost western part of Lower Valais, Chablais, Ovronnaz, Montana: 30 to 50 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps west of the Reuss, remaining parts of northern Valais not including Goms, and in addition, Martigny-Verbiere, western part of Jura region: 15 to 30 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: 5 to 15 cm.

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds were blowing at light to moderate strength to begin with, subsequently intensifying during the daytime to strong velocity, from southerly directions. In the Alpine valleys of the north, strong-velocity southerly foehn winds prevailed.

Weather forecast through Monday, 05.03.2018

During the night from western to eastern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1200 m. During the daytime in northern regions, skies will be bright as a result of foehn influence. During the afternoon, cloud cover will move in from the west. In southern regions, skies will be overcast, excluding some bright intervals during the morning hours.

Fresh snow

Only a few centimeters over widespread areas.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +1 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength from southerly directions. In the Alpine valleys, there will be a tendency towards foehn wind.

Outlook through Wednesday, 07.03.2018

On both days skies will be heavily overcast for the most part. Above approximately 1000 m, 10 to 20 cm of fresh snow is anticipated over widespread areas, on the northern flank of the Alps approximately 30 cm from region to region. Winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength by and large, from westerly directions. The avalanche danger levels are expected to increase somewhat in most regions as a result of the fresh snow.