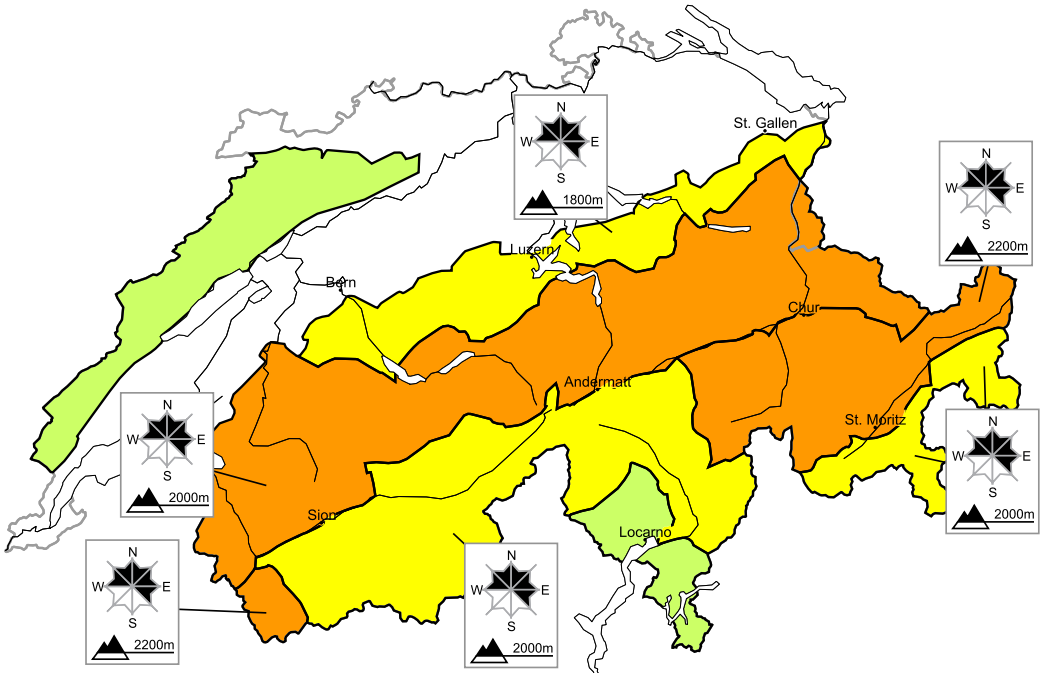
# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

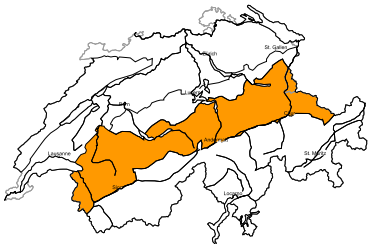
Edition: 9.3.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 9.3.2018, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 9.3.2018, 08:00

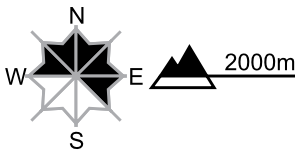



## region A — Level 3, considerable



### Snow drifts, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

The more recent snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. Deeper layers of the snowpack can be released by a single winter sport participant in some places. These avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

### Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation individual full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on very steep sunny slopes below approximately 2400 m.



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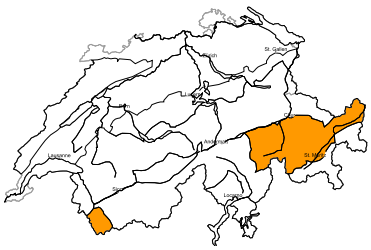
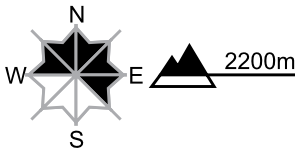
## region B — Level 3, considerable



### Snow drifts, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**



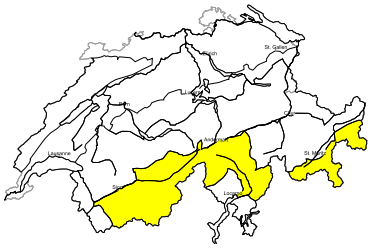

**Danger description**

The more recent snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. Deeper layers of the snowpack can be released by a single winter sport participant in some places. These avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

### Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

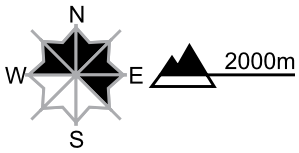
Valais: As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation individual full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on very steep sunny slopes below approximately 2400 m.

## region C — Level 2, moderate



### Snow drifts, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

The more recent snow drift accumulations are mostly small but prone to triggering. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Deeper layers of the snowpack can be released by a single winter sport participant in some places. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

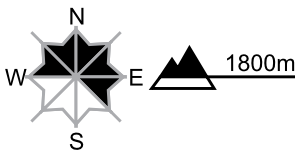
### Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

Valais: As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation individual full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on very steep sunny slopes below approximately 2400 m.

## region D — Level 2, moderate

### Snow drifts, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

The more recent snow drift accumulations are mostly small but prone to triggering. Deeper layers of the snowpack can be released in isolated cases and mostly by large additional loads. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.



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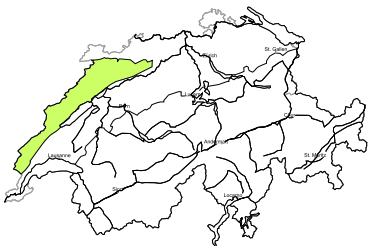
## region E — Level 1, low



### Snow drifts

The more recent snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in terrain where there is a danger of falling. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

## region F — 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.



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# Snowpack and weather

updated on 8.3.2018, 17:00

## Snowpack

The more recently formed snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering. The drifted masses are largest in northern and western regions, where the heaviest snowfall has been registered and the westerly winds were blowing at strong velocity in some places. Older, currently blanketed snowdrift accumulations are also still prone to triggering in some places. In many zones they were deposited on top of a loosely-packed layer of faceted snow crystals or else atop surface hoar. These avalanche prone locations in the old snow are nearly impossible to recognize.
As a result of solar radiation and daytime warming, isolated gliding avalanches are possible at intermediate altitudes more than anywhere else.

## Observed weather on Thursday, 08.03.2018

During the night the snowfall came to an end in northern regions. The snowfall level descended to approximately 800 m. During the daytime it was rather sunny.

### Fresh snow

Between Tuesday morning and Thursday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 1500 m:

- western sector of the northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps, Urner Alps, furthermost western part of Lower Valais: 20 to 30 cm; in the Chablais and Trient regions as much as 40 cm from place to place;
- Jura region, remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Lower Valais, northern and central Grisons, Moesano, Engadine north of the Inn, Val Bregaglia: 10 to 20 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: 5 to 10 cm; in the Simplon region, in southern Goms, in the western part of Ticino and in Sotto Ceneri, less.

### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in eastern regions and -2 °C in western and in southern regions.

### Wind

Winds will be westerly,

- on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Jura region, blowing at predominantly moderate strength, intermittently blowing at strong velocity.
- in the other regions of Switzerland blowing at light to moderate strength.

## Weather forecast through Friday, 09.03.2018

It will be rather sunny in the mountains. Intermittently cloudy skies are anticipated in northern and western regions more than anywhere else.

### Fresh snow

-

### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +3 °C in northern regions and -2 °C in southern regions.

### Wind

Winds will be westerly,

- in northern regions and at high altitudes in general, blowing predominantly at moderate strength, intermittently also at strong velocity;
- blowing at light to moderate strength in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps.

## **Outlook** through Sunday, 11.03.2018

**Saturday**
In the foehn-exposed regions of the north, isolated bright intervals are anticipated. A small amount of snowfall is expected in western regions above approximately 2000 m, and in southern regions above approximately 1200 m. A strong-velocity southwesterly wind will be blowing in the mountains, and strong foehn wind will prevail in the Alpine valleys. The avalanche situation for backcountry skiers and freeriders is expected to remain treacherous in northern regions more than anywhere else. The main danger stems from freshly generated snowdrift accumulations. As a result of daytime warming, the dangers of wet-snow avalanches and gliding avalanches will increase somewhat in northern regions more than anywhere else.

**Sunday**
On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1500 m which will be heaviest between the eastern part of the Ticino and into the Bernina region. In northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is expected following the final bright intervals. The snowfall level will descend to nearly 1500 m. Avalanche danger levels are expected to increase in southern regions. In northern regions, avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.