Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 10 March 2018

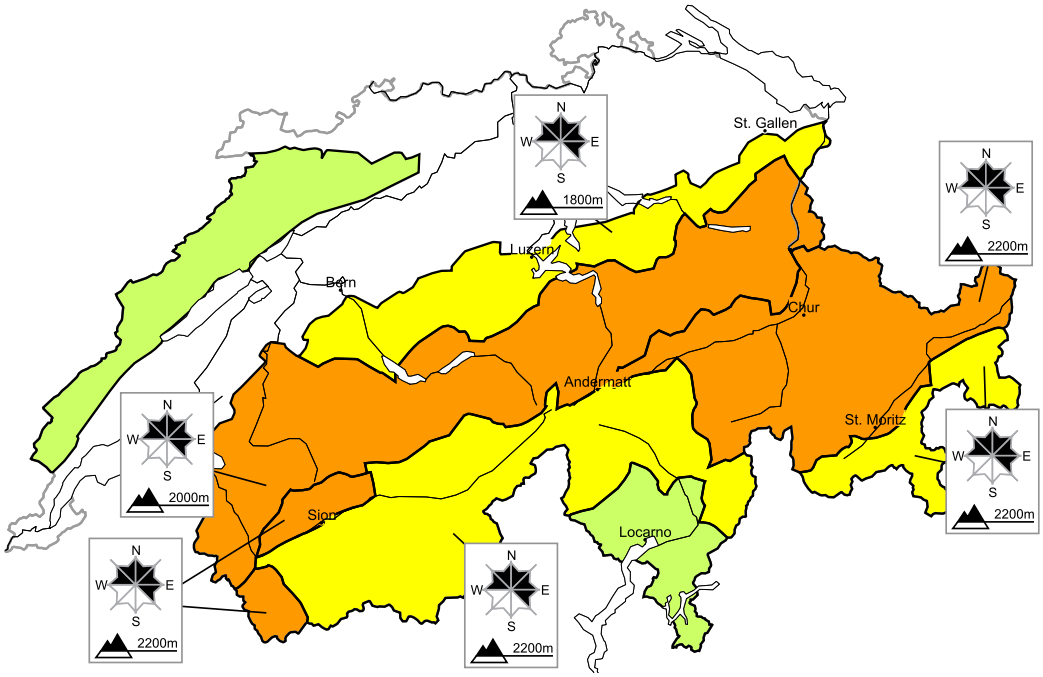
10.3.2018, 07:41

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 10.3.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 10.3.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

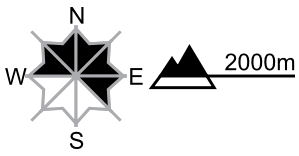
updated on 10.3.2018, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind the snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. These 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 individual full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m.

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

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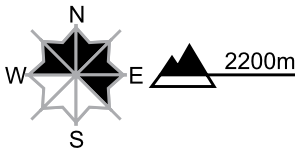
region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



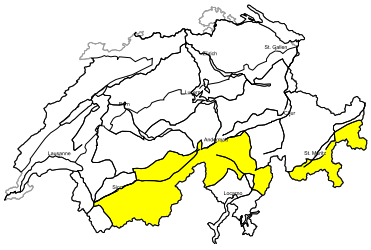
Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind the snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. These 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

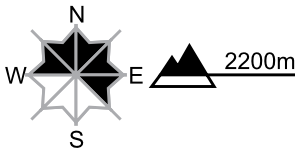
As a consequence of warming during the day individual full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind the snow drift accumulations will increase in size. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase. The danger of avalanches will increase a little during the day. 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.

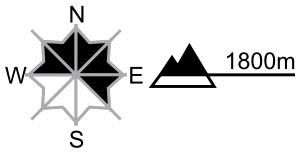
Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

Valais: As a consequence of warming during the day individual full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m.

region D — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind further snow drift accumulations will form, in particular at elevated altitudes. 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.

Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day individual full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected.

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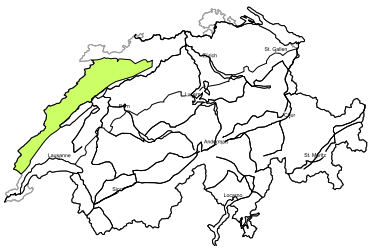
region E — Level 1, low



Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain individual moist snow slides and avalanches are possible. 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 9.3.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong-velocity southwesterly winds, as well as foehn wind in the northern regions, the snowdrift accumulations are continuing to be generated and grow in size. Particularly wherever the wind extends into the shady-slope zones, snowdrift accumulations also form distant from ridgeline terrain. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering. Number and size of the avalanche prone locations tend to increase with ascending altitude as well as over the course of the day.
In the uppermost section of the snow cover, furthermore, there are weak layers consisting of faceted snow crystals or else blanketed surface hoar. Avalanches can be triggered not only in the fresh layers of snowdrifts, but also in these, somewhat more deeply embedded weak layers. These avalanche prone locations in the old snow are nearly impossible to recognize.
As a result of the heightened temperatures, isolated wet-snow and gliding avalanches are possible.

Observed weather on Friday, 09.03.2018

Skies were frequently overcast. There were frequent extented phases of sunshine in southern regions and in the Engadine more than anywhere else.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -1 °C on the southern flank of the Alps and +3 °C in the other regions of Switzerland.

Wind

Winds were westerly to southerly,
- blowing predominantly at moderate strength on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Jura region, intermittently also at strong velocity, slackening off somewhat during the daytime in eastern regions;
- blowing at light to moderate strength in the other regions of Switzerland.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 10.03.2018

Skies will be predominantly overcast. There will be isolated foehn-induced bright intervals in northern regions. During the daytime, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas. The snowfall level in northern regions will be 2000 m; in southern regions, 1200 m.

Fresh snow

In the northern and furthermost western parts of Lower Valais, as well as on the Main Alpine Ridge, as much as 10 cm of snowfall is expected. In the other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimeters are anticipated over widespread areas; in the foehn-exposed regions of the north it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +5 °C in northern regions and -2 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds in northern regions will be southwesterly, blowing at strong velocity at high altitudes;
- in the foehn-exposed valleys of the north, strong foehn wind will prevail in some places.

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Outlook through Monday, 12.03.2018

Sunday

On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, snowfall is anticipated which will have its focal point between eastern Ticino and in the Bernina region. The snowfall level will temporarily ascend to nearly 1800 m, subsequently descend again to 1200 m. In northern regions, a strong foehn wind will be blowing and there will consequently be isolated bright intervals. A small amount of snowfall above approxiamtely 2000 m is expected from the west during the course of the day. The avalanche danger levels are expected to increase significantly in southern regions. In northern regions, the danger of dry-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly. The danger of wet-snow and gliding avalanches will increase somewhat.

Monday

Skies will frequently be overcast. Above approximately 1500 m, intermittent snowfall is anticipated. The avalanche danger levels are expected to decrease somewhat over widespread areas.