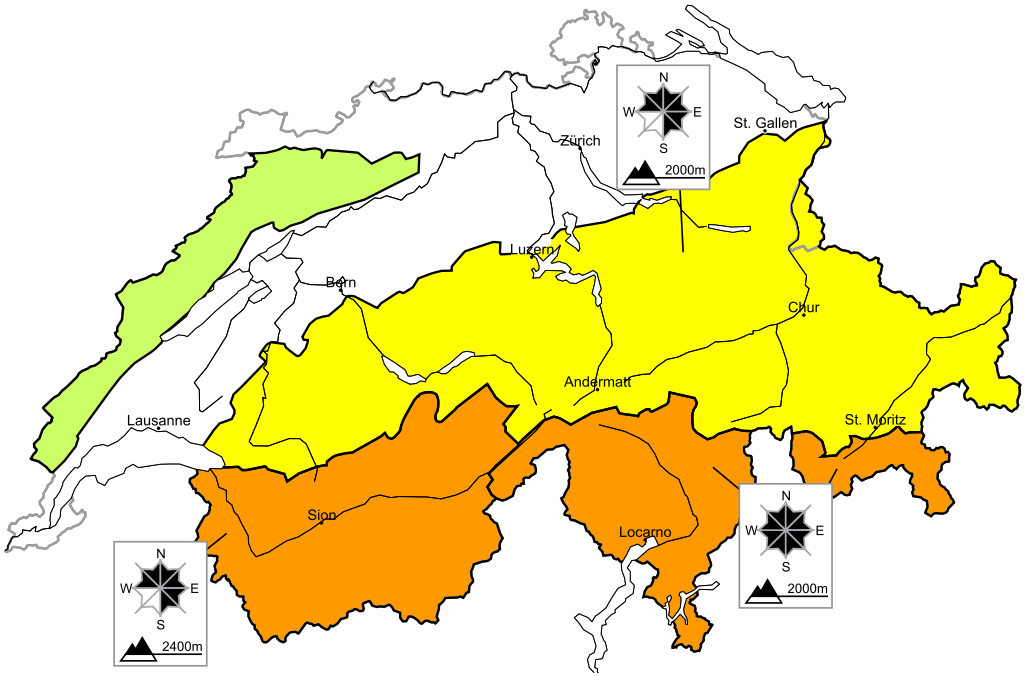
Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 12.3.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 12.3.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

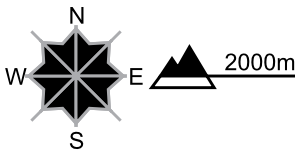
updated on 12.3.2018, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on steep shady slopes. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Individual natural avalanches are to be expected. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m individual full-depth avalanches are possible.

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

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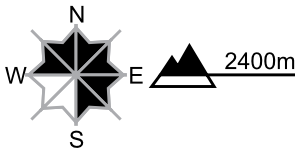
region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations can in some cases be released easily. In particular in areas not adjacent to the ridge line large surface-area snow drift accumulations have formed. These are mostly shallow.
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.

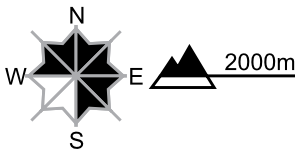
Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m individual full-depth avalanches are possible, including quite large ones.

region C — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



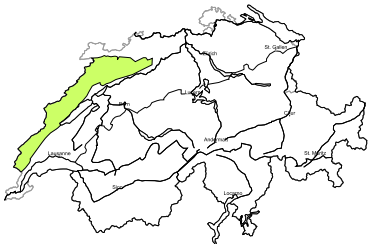
Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small and in some cases prone to triggering. The older snow drift accumulations can especially at their margins be released by people. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations and likelihood of triggering will increase with altitude.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m full-depth and wet avalanches are possible.

region D — Level 1, low



Snow drifts

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 11.3.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

In southern regions, the fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering over widespread areas. In northern regions, fresh snowdrift accumulations have been generated at high altitudes as a result of the intermittently storm-strength southerly winds, including far distant from ridgeline terrain. These drifted masses are only triggerable in certain places, and primarily as a result of large additional loading.
In addition to that, more deeply embedded inside the snow cover, particularly on shady slopes, are weak layers consisting of faceted snow crystals or blanketed surface hoar. Avalanches can also be triggered from these deeper weak layers. These avalanche prone locations inside the old snow are nearly impossible to recognize.
As a result of heightened temperatures and rainfall, the snowpack was moistened up to approximately 2200 m, in some cases even higher up. The dropping temperatures will stabilise these layers significantly. Below approximately 2400 m, gliding avalanches continue to be possible.

Observed weather on Sunday, 11.03.2018

Skies were heavily overcast, accompanied by only short intervals of brightness in the foehn-exposed regions. In southern regions, precipitation set in during Saturday night. The snowfall level south of the Main Alpine Ridge was 1500 m; north of the Main Alpine Ridge the snowfall level was 2000 m.

Fresh snow

Until Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 2000 m:
· central sector of the southern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm;
· Main Alpine Ridge from Great St. Bernard to the Bernina Pass: 5 to 15 cm;
· in other regions of Switzerland, less; or else it remained dry.

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds were southerly,
· on the northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge blowing predominantly at moderate to strong velocity, at high altitudes intermittently at storm strength;
· in other regions of Switzerland, winds were blowing at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Monday, 12.03.2018

Weather conditions will be variable and skies heavily overcast, accompanied by only brief intervals of brightness. Snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas. The snowfall level in northern regions will be at 1400 to 1600 m to begin with, subsequently it will descend to 1200 to 1400 m, as it was also previously in southern regions.

Fresh snow

Between Sunday afternoon and Monday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:
· furthermost western part of Lower Valais, together with the region from Val Bregaglia to the Bernina Pass: 15 to 30 cm;
· western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, central sector of the southern flank of the Alps: 10 to 20 cm;
· remaining regions of Switzerland: 5 to 10 cm widespread, or less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C.

Wind

Winds will be westerly,
· in western and northern regions blowing at strong to storm velocity;
· on the southern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, blowing predominantly at moderate strength.

Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 12 March 2018

Outlook through Wednesday, 14.03.2018

On Tuesday in northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy, accompanied by snow showers; in southern regions, partly sunny. On Tuesday night in northern regions, snowfall over widespread areas is expected, subsequently in the daytime it will become predominantly sunny. On Wednesday, the westerly winds will slacken off significantly. On Tuesday and on Wednesday, the avalanche danger levels could increase somewhat in northern regions; in southern regions, the danger will incrementally diminish. Gliding avalanches continue to be possible.