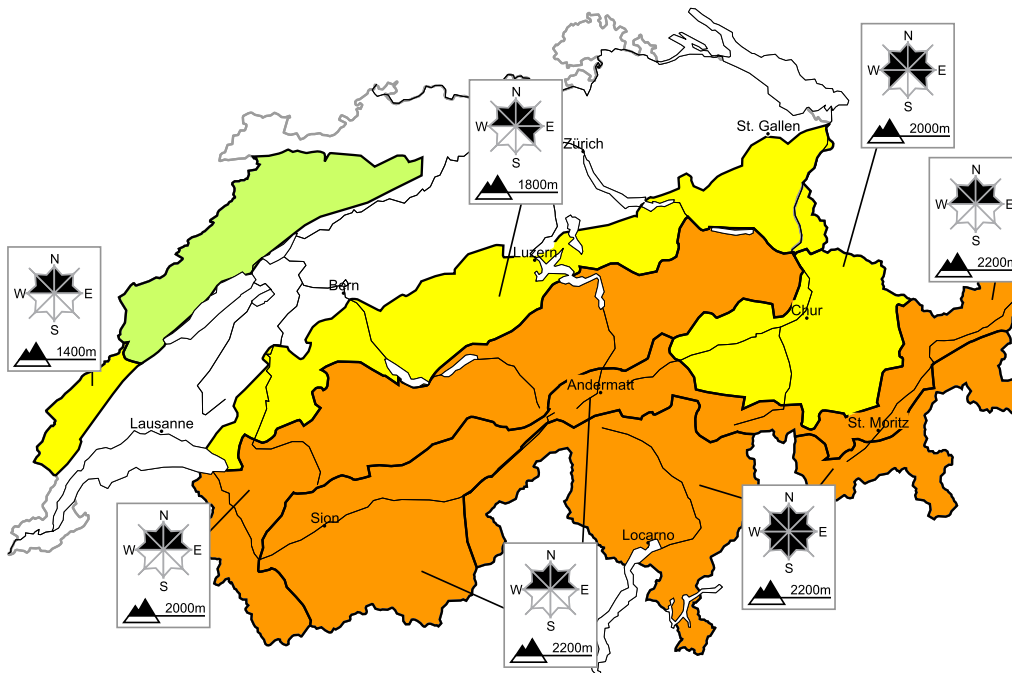


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 16.3.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 16.3.2018, 17:00

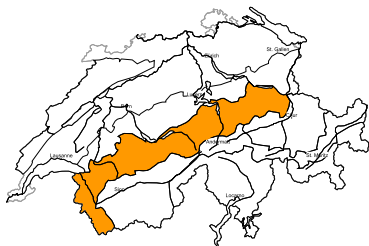
Avalanche danger

updated on 16.3.2018, 08:00



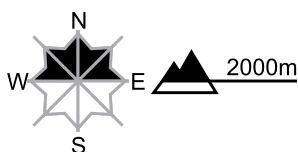
region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in deeper layers. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

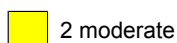
Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m full-depth avalanches are possible, including medium-sized ones. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

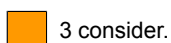
Danger levels



1 low



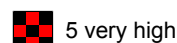
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



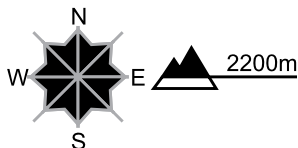
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

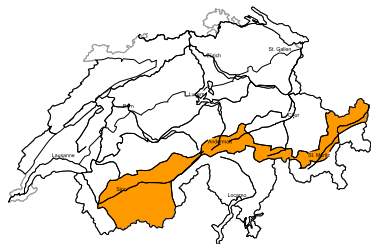
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in deeper layers. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep north facing slopes. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m individual full-depth avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

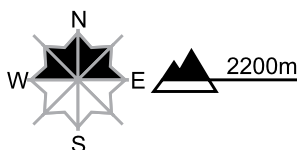
region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Mostly these are small. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in deeper layers. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep north facing slopes. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m full-depth avalanches are possible, including quite large ones. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

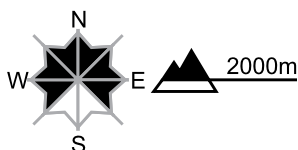
region D

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

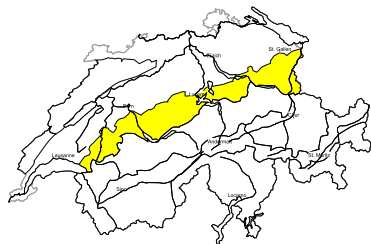
Weak layers in the upper part of the snowpack can be released by a single winter sport participant in some places. As a consequence of the southerly wind snow drift accumulations have formed. These are mostly small but can be released easily. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for careful route selection.

Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m individual full-depth avalanches are possible, including medium-sized ones. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

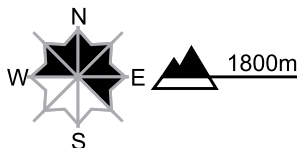
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

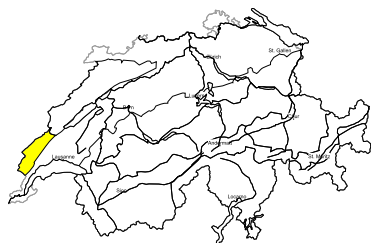
Fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. The older snow drift accumulations can especially at their margins be released by people. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

Individual full-depth avalanches and snow slides are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

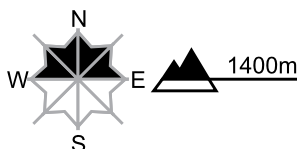
region F

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

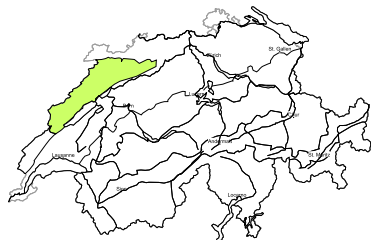


Danger description

The more recent snow drift accumulations are small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

region G

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 15.3.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong-velocity southerly winds and foehn, freshly generated snowdrift accumulations have been formed. Fresh snow and freshly formed snowdrift accumulations have been deposited on top of a loosely-packed old snow cover surface in some places on shady slopes and are prone to triggering. In addition to these snowdrifts, further weak layers near the uppermost surface of the snowpack are also prone to triggering, and have now been blanketed by fresher snow. These older avalanche prone locations are currently covered from view and thus, are nearly impossible to recognize. The evaluation of avalanche danger zones is thereby made exceedingly difficult.

On flattish fields, the snow cover is thoroughly wet up to approximately 1800 m, on steep, sunny slopes up to approximately 2200 m. As the temperature descends, the danger of wet-snow avalanches tends to decrease.

Nevertheless, gliding avalanches continue to be possible at any time, more than anywhere else below approximately 2400 m.

On north-facing slopes above approximately 1000 m there is an area-wide, cohesive snow cover; on south-facing slopes this is the case starting approximately 400 m higher up. The snow depths are above average for this juncture of the season, far above average in the Valais. The greatest snow depths, namely 200 to 400 cm, occur in the northern part of Lower Valais, and from region to region on the northern flank of the Alps. Further to the south, the snow depths are lesser. In central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, as well as in the Upper Engadine, there is the least amount of snow: 50 to 80 cm deep at 2000 m.

Observed weather on Thursday, 15.03.2018

During the night, the southerly winds became brisk and skies in western and in southern regions turned increasingly overcast. Starting in the early morning hours, a strong-velocity southerly foehn wind was blowing. In western and in southern regions above approximately 1200 m, there was a small amount of snowfall. In northern and in eastern regions, skies were predominantly overcast, accompanied by foehn-induced bright intervals.

Fresh snow

Until Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 1500 m:

- Simplon region, central sector of the southern flank of the Alps, furthestmost western part of Lower Valais, western Jura region: 5 to 15 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, less; or else, it remained dry.

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds were blowing from southerly directions,

- at moderate to strong velocity, strong to storm-strength on the northern Alpine Ridge;
- in some places in the northern Alpine valleys, strong-velocity foehn winds were blowing;
- in the furthestmost southern regions, winds were light to moderate.

Weather forecast through Friday, 16.03.2018

During the night, a small amount of additional snowfall is expected over widespread areas. During the daytime in northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by sunny intervals and isolated snow showers above approximately 1200 m. In the inneralpine and southern regions it will be quite sunny, accompanied by convective cloud build-up during the course of the day.

Fresh snow

Above approximately 1500 m, 5 to 10 cm of fresh snow is anticipated widespread; in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons as much as 20 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in northern regions and -1 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be westerly to southwesterly, blowing at moderate strength; in the furthest southern regions, light northerly winds will prevail.

Outlook through Sunday, 18.03.2018

On Saturday, skies will be predominantly overcast and above approximately 1000 m a small amount of snowfall is expected over widespread areas. On Sunday, skies will be overcast, accompanied by snowfall down to low lying areas in northern regions, in southern regions down to approximately 600 m. The avalanche danger levels are expected to decrease; in southern regions, avalanche danger could increase to a certain extent on Sunday.