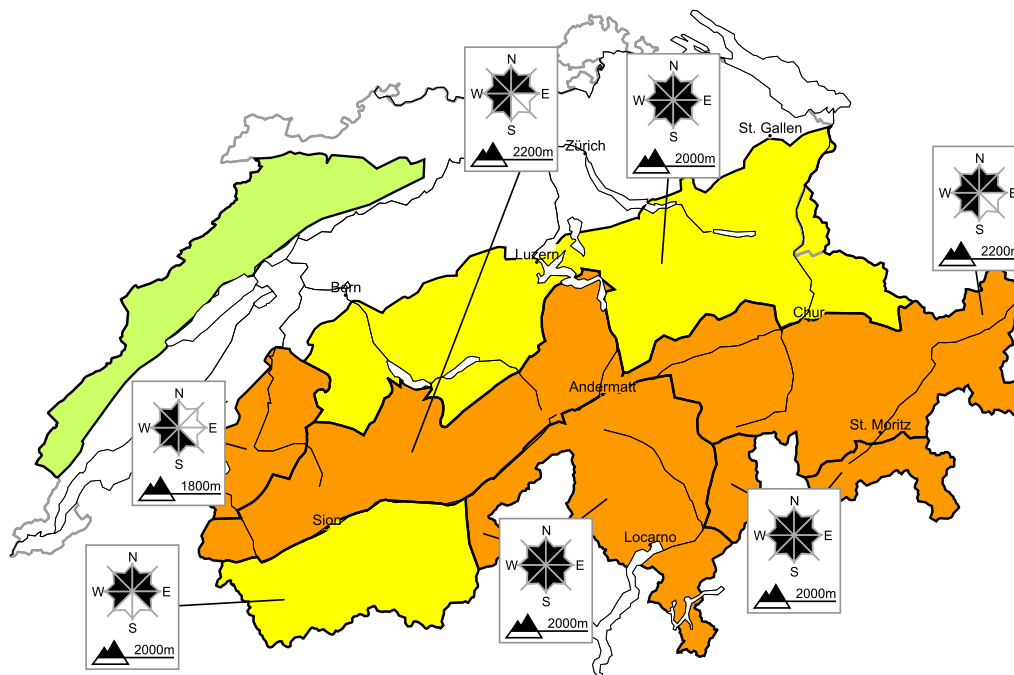


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Snow drifts and weakly bonded old snow require caution

Edition: 22.3.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 22.3.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 22.3.2018, 08:00



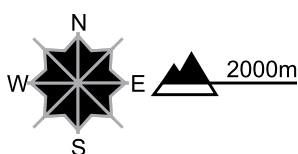
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The northerly wind has transported the loosely bonded old snow. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. In particular on north and east facing slopes these can penetrate even deep layers and reach a dangerous size. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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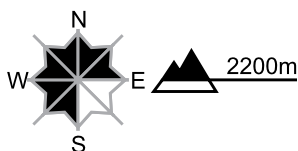
region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the northeasterly wind snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.

In particular in little used backcountry terrain avalanches can be triggered in the old snow. They can reach medium size in isolated cases. These avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable.

The current avalanche situation calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

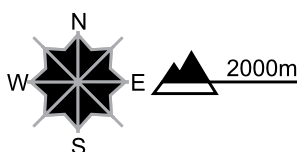
region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

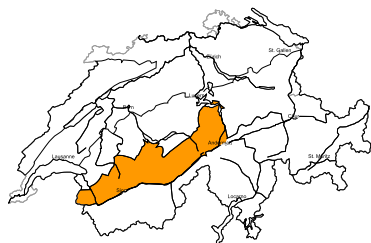
The northerly wind has transported the loosely bonded old snow. Sometimes large snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases.

In very isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size. This applies in particular on steep, little used north facing slopes.

These avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

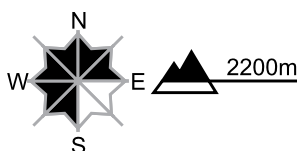
region D

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



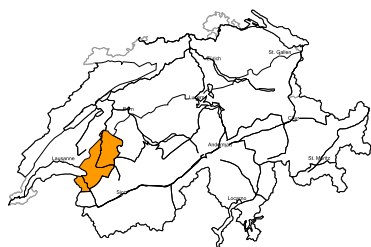
Danger description

The northeasterly wind has transported the loosely bonded old snow. The snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.

Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size. This applies in particular on steep, little used north facing slopes. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

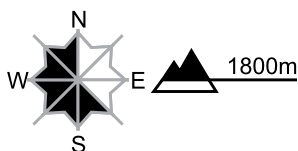
region E

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

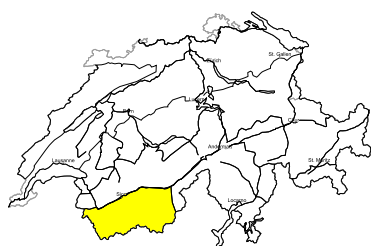


Danger description

The Bise wind has transported the loosely bonded old snow. The sometimes large snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

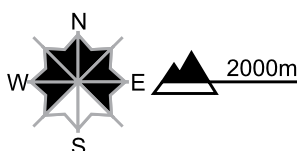
region F

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



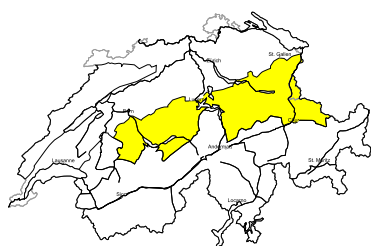
Danger description

In particular in little used backcountry terrain avalanches can be triggered in the old snow. They can reach medium size in isolated cases. These avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable. Defensive route selection is advisable.

As a consequence of the northeasterly wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

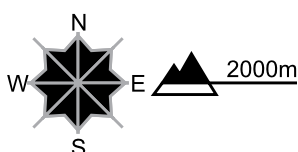
region G

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

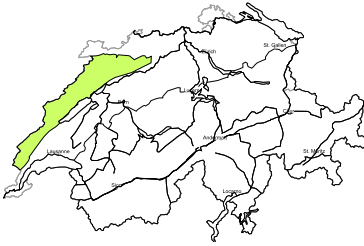


Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. They are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. At elevated altitudes avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is slightly greater. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Careful route selection is recommended.

region H


Level 1, low





Snow drifts

As a consequence of the Bise wind small snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in extreme terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.


Danger levels

 1 low

 2 moderate

 3 consider.

 4 high

 5 very high



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Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.3.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

Northerly-to-northeasterly winds, in some places blowing at strong velocity, have transported the loosely-packed snow which fell over the weekend.

Inside the uppermost meter of the snow cover in the Valais, in the Ticino and in Grisons more than anywhere else, older weak layers are still prone to triggering in isolated cases. These avalanche prone locations are found particularly on north-facing slopes which have been little skied. They are nearly impossible to recognize, which makes the evaluation of avalanche danger exceedingly difficult. Between Val Bregaglia and the Bernina Pass, numerous avalanches, some of them large-sized releases, have been reported over the last two days; some of these avalanches triggered in the old snow. The old snowpack is less favourably layered there.

As a result of the quite low temperatures, gliding avalanches are still possible only in very isolated cases. Nevertheless, such releases as might occur can still grow to dangerously large size.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 21.03.2018

Due to bise wind, it was cold. In the Valais, in the southern regions, in the Engadine and in general in high alpine regions, it was sunny. In the other regions of Switzerland skies were overcast and there was intermittent snowfall registered, for the most part bringing only a few centimeters of fresh snow. During the course of the day in western regions, as well as in northern and central Grisons, there were extensive bright intervals.

Fresh snow

- from the Hasliberg to Engelberg: 20 to 30 cm of light and fluffy fresh snow;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, Jura region: just a few centimeters widespread; in the other regions of Switzerland, it was generally dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between a cold -11 °C in northern regions and -8 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds were northerly to northeasterly,

- blowing at strong velocity during the night on the northern Alpine Ridge west of the Reuss, on the Main Alpine Ridge from Goms into the Lower Engadine, as well as in northern Ticino; at moderate strength during the daytime;
- blowing as a moderate-strength bise wind in the Jura region and in the western Prealps, at strong velocity from place to place;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, blowing predominantly at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 22.03.2018

Following a night of predominantly clear skies, it will be sunny for the most part. During the afternoon, high-altitude cloudbanks of gradually increasing density will move in from the north. The northeasterly air current will persist. However, it will be not quite as cold.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds at high altitudes will be blowing at moderate strength, at strong velocity during the afternoon in the central and eastern parts of the Main Alpine Ridge, from northerly to northeasterly directions;
- in southern regions winds will be northerly, blowing at light to moderate strength, during the afternoon at strong velocity in some places.

Outlook through Saturday, 24.03.2018

Friday

On Thursday night in northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. In the early morning hours of Friday, residual cloud will still persist in northern regions. This cloud cover will disperse from the west during the course of the day. In the Valais and in southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. In northern regions the danger of dry-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly. In southern regions, the danger levels will incrementally decrease. On sunny slopes, moist-snowslides will be possible.

Saturday

In northern regions it will be sunny and milder. In southern regions skies will be overcast until nearly midday, nonetheless it will remain dry, by and large. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will gradually decrease. On sunny slopes, wet-snow avalanches will be possible.