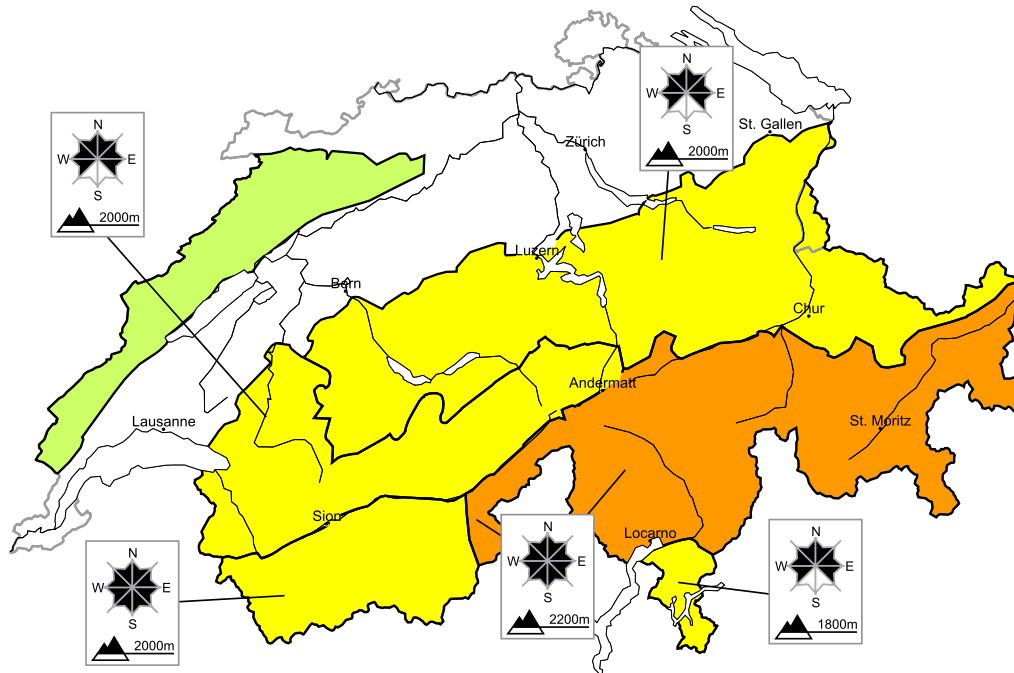


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 24.3.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 24.3.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 24.3.2018, 08:00



Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

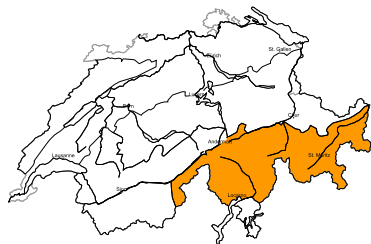
5 very high



WSL Institute for Snow and
Avalanche Research SLF
www.slf.ch

region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases.

Avalanches can additionally be released in the old snowpack in particular in little used backcountry terrain. These can reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep north facing slopes. Such avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

As a consequence of warming during the day and the solar radiation, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase for a while. The current avalanche situation calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected. Below approximately 2400 m individual full-depth avalanches are possible, including quite large ones. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

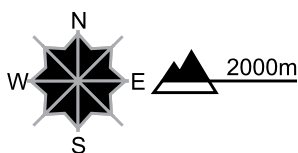
region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more widespread and the danger is slightly greater.

Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack in particular in little used backcountry terrain. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep north facing slopes. Such avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. As a consequence of warming during the day and the solar radiation, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase a little. Defensive route selection is important.

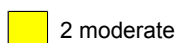
Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected. Below approximately 2400 m individual full-depth avalanches are possible, including large ones in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

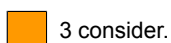
Danger levels



1 low



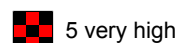
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

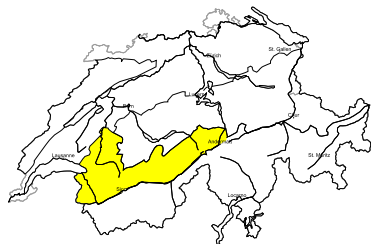


5 very high



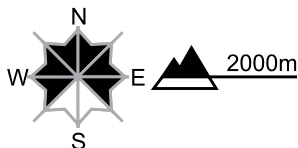
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

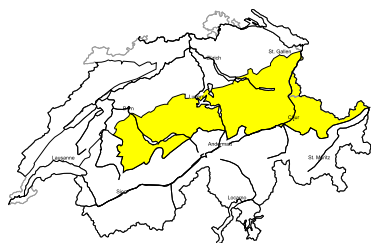
The sometimes large snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released, especially at their margins,. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected. Below approximately 2400 m individual full-depth avalanches are possible, including large ones in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

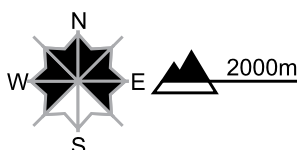
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The mostly small snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. At elevated altitudes avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is slightly greater. Careful route selection is recommended.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected. Below approximately 2400 m individual full-depth avalanches are possible, including quite large ones. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

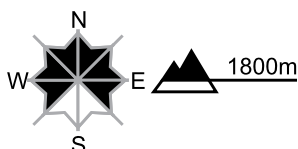
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

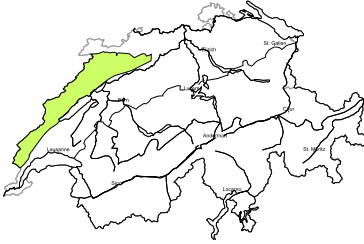
The snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. They can especially at their margins be released by people. Careful route selection is recommended.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

Individual wet and full-depth avalanches are possible.

region F

Level 1, low



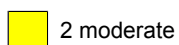
Wet avalanches

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

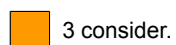
Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



Snowpack and weather

updated on 23.3.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

The snowdrift accumulations generated by northerly winds over the last few days are still prone to triggering in some places.

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 on-site evaluation of avalanche danger exceedingly difficult. As a consequence of solar radiation and daytime warming, the likelihood of dry-snow avalanches triggering during the course of the day will increase to some extent.

Particularly on sunny slopes, moist sluffs can be expected during the course of the day. The danger of gliding avalanches is expected to increase somewhat. Due to the above-average snow depths such gliding avalanches can grow to dangerously large size.

Observed weather on Friday, 23.03.2018

On Thursday night in northern regions and in the Jura region, there was a small amount of snowfall down to low lying areas. During the daytime on Thursday in western and in southern regions, it was predominantly sunny. In northern and in eastern regions, skies were variably cloudy.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered:

- central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, western Jura region: 5 to 15 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland only a few centimeters; in southern regions it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in eastern regions and -3 °C in western and in southern regions.

Wind

Winds were blowing from northerly directions,

- during the night at moderate to strong velocity over widespread areas, at light to moderate strength in the Prealps;
- during the daytime, slackening off, still blowing at moderate strength only on the northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge; in other regions, winds were predominantly light.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 24.03.2018

In northern regions it will be predominantly sunny. During the afternoon, cloud cover will move in from the west. On the southern flank of the Alps, skies will be overcast to start with. In central Ticino and in Sotto Ceneri, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. During the afternoon, bright intervals are expected.

Fresh snow

In central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri: only a few centimeters of fresh snow is expected.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in northern regions -2 °C, in southern regions -6 °C.

Wind

Wind will be predominantly light.

Outlook through Monday, 26.03.2018

Sunday

In northern regions, skies will frequently be overcast. In the inneralpine regions, in general in high alpine regions, and in southern regions, it will be rather sunny. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will decrease, however only slowly in the Valais and in Grisons, due to weak layers inside the old snowpack. The danger of wet-snow avalanches is expected to increase somewhat over the course of the day as a result of solar radiation. Gliding avalanches are possible, including quite large-sized releases.

Monday

In northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1000 m. In southern regions, it will be sunny in some places. The danger of dry-snow avalanches can increase somewhat in northern regions. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will increase to some extent over the course of the day as a consequence of solar radiation. Gliding avalanches are possible in all regions of Switzerland, including large-sized releases.