Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 28 March 2018

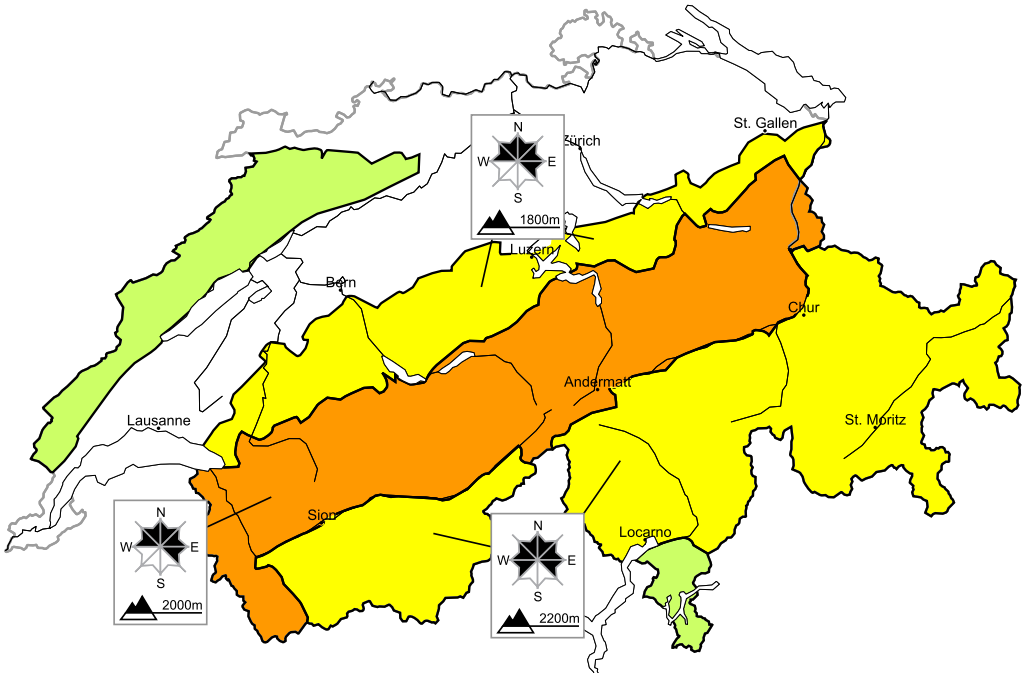
28.3.2018, 08:06

In the north and in the west a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 28.3.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 28.3.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

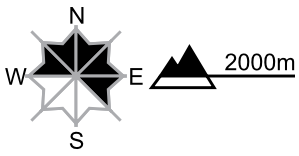
updated on 28.3.2018, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind sometimes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Mostly small natural avalanches are possible. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

As a consequence of the rain moist snow slides are possible.
Below approximately 2400 m full-depth avalanches are possible. In many cases these are dangerously large. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

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

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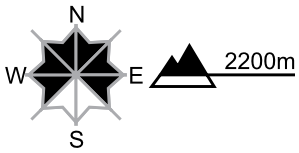
region B — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.
Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in deeper layers. This applies in particular on very steep north facing slopes in little used backcountry terrain. Such avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable.
Careful route selection is important.

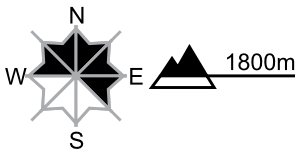
Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m individual full-depth avalanches are possible. In many cases these are dangerously large. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region C — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



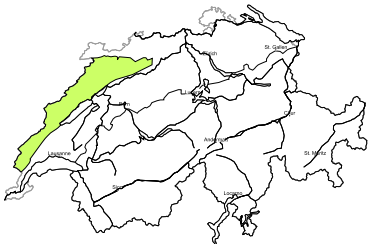
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind snow drift accumulations will form. These are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain.
Careful route selection is recommended. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be avoided.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

As a consequence of the rain moist snow slides are possible.
Full-depth avalanches can also occur. In some cases these are quite large. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region D — Level 1, low



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.

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region E

Level 1, low

Dry 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.

Full-depth avalanches

In all aspects small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 27.3.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

In particular on north facing slopes above approximately 1800 m, fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on top of snow that remains powdery and loosely bonded in many cases. Elsewhere, the old snow surfaces have a mostly strong crust on steep south facing slopes and are brittle in the other aspects. In addition, in particular in Valais and Grisons, older weak layers in the uppermost metre of the snowpack are still prone to triggering in isolated cases. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on little used north facing slopes and are barely recognisable.
Gliding avalanches can occur. In view of the mostly deep snow cover, they can reach a dangerously large size.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 27.03.2018

It was quite sunny in the south, and there were prolonged bright spells from Valais via northern Ticino to Upper Engadine. Otherwise, the weather was mostly very cloudy.

Fresh snow
The snowfall level was between 1000 and 1400 m. The following amounts of snow fell in the period from Monday afternoon until Tuesday afternoon:
· From the eastern Bernese Oberland to the St Gallen Alps: 10 to 20 cm
· On the rest of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons: 5 to 10 cm
· Elsewhere: smaller amounts or no precipitation

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: between -5 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south

Wind
From the west, mostly light, occasionally moderate

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 28.03.2018

The north will be very cloudy and precipitation will fall on Tuesday night in particular. Brief bright spells are possible in the morning. In the afternoon precipitation will return from the west. The south will be quite sunny in the morning, but become dull in the afternoon.

Fresh snow
The snowfall level will temporarily rise to approximately 1600 m. In the period to Wednesday afternoon, the following amounts of snow will fall:
· Extreme west of Lower Valais: 20 to 30 cm
· Northern flank of the Alps: 10 to 20 cm over a wide area, but up to 30 cm from the eastern Bernese Oberland to the Glarus Alps
· Other regions of Valais and in Grisons: 5 to 15 cm
· Southern flank of the Alps: mostly dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: about 0 °C

Wind
From the west
· In the west and north and generally at elevated altitudes, strong, occasionally storm force
· Otherwise moderate to strong

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Outlook through Friday, 30.03.2018

Thursday

On Maundy Thursday a little further precipitation will fall in the morning in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps. Elsewhere it will become partly sunny from the west. The weather will be quite sunny in Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps, but will become increasingly cloudy on the southern flank of the Alps as the day progresses. The wind will be moderate to strong from the west. The danger of dry avalanches will increase a little in some regions. Gliding avalanches can still occur.

Friday

Good Friday will be dull on the southern flank of the Alps and there will be frequent participation with a snowfall level between 1400 and 1800 m. North of the main Alpine ridge it will be partly sunny and mild, in particular in the regions exposed to the foehn wind. The wind will be strong to storm force from the southwest. The danger of dry avalanches will increase on the southern flank of the Alps in particular. Gliding avalanches can still occur.