Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 1 April 2018

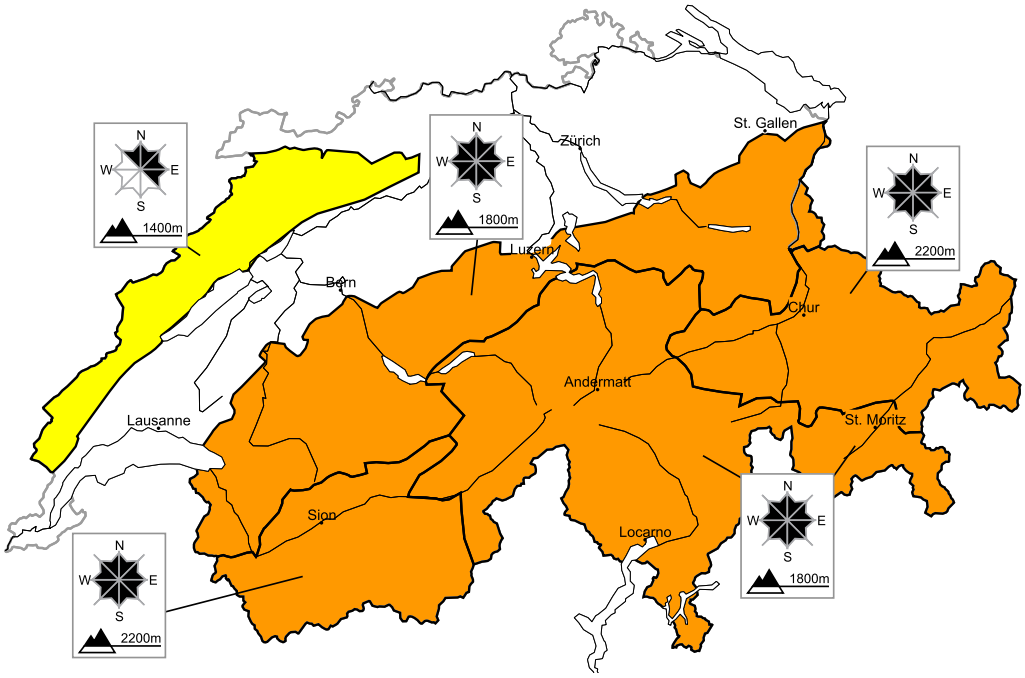
1.4.2018, 07:41

Outside marked and open pistes a critical avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 1.4.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 1.4.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

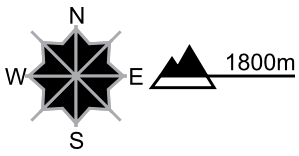
updated on 1.4.2018, 08:00



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 prone to triggering. As a consequence of the northerly wind extensive snow drift accumulations will form. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Natural avalanches are possible. In isolated cases avalanches can release the weakly bonded old snow as well and reach quite a large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

Below approximately 2400 m more full-depth avalanches are possible.
Southern flank of the Alps: On steep sunny slopes moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

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

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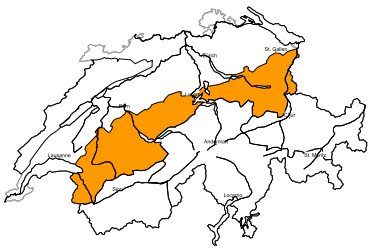
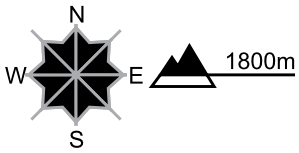
region B — Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



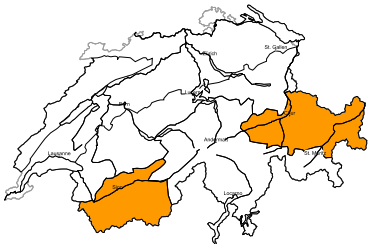
Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last three days are in some cases prone to triggering. As a consequence of the northerly wind further snow drift accumulations will form. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can reach medium size in isolated cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

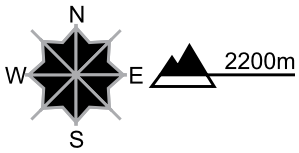
Below approximately 2600 m full-depth avalanches are possible. These can reach dangerously large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region C — Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last three days are in some cases prone to triggering. As a consequence of the northerly wind further snow drift accumulations will form. 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.
Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. They can in some cases reach medium size. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2600 m full-depth avalanches are possible. These can reach dangerously large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

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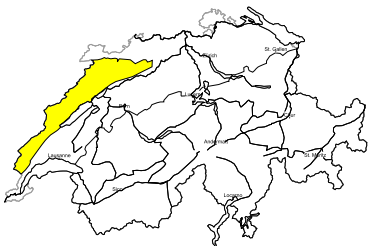
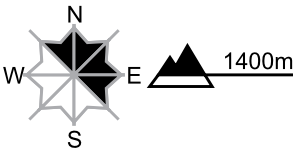
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the moderate wind small snow drift accumulations will form. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised also in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 31.3.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of southerly winds which were frequently blowing at strong velocity, wide ranging snowdrift accumulations have been generated in the major areas of precipitation. At high altitudes, the fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts of recent days are inadequately bonded with the old snowpack surface beneath them. As a consequence of strengthening northerly winds, additional snowdrift accumulations can be expected to form on Sunday.
More deeply embedded, weakened layers of snow are evident in the uppermost part of the snow cover in the Valais and Grisons more than anywhere else.
The danger of wet-snow avalanches is subject to a daytime danger cycle in southern regions in particular. Gliding avalanches continue to be possible in all regions of Switzerland at any time. Due to the extraordinary snow depths in most places, these releases can grow to dangerously large size.

Observed weather on Saturday, 31.03.2018

On Friday night there was snowfall above approximately 800 m over widespread areas, which was intensive in southern regions and from place to place on the northern flank of the Alps. During the morning on Saturday the precipitation gradually slackened off. The snowfall level descended in northern regions down to approximately 800 m, and in southern regions to approximately 1200 m. In the Valais and Grisons there were bright intervals.

Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon on the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Alps to the Glarner Alps, in the Aletsch and Gotthard regions, as well as on the Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon region into the Bernina region and southwards therefrom, there was 40 to 70 cm of snowfall registered, more than anywhere else.
Overall between Thursday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 2000 m:

- Simplon region, Goms, Gotthard region, the regions of the Bernese and Central Swiss Alps bordering to the north, northwestern Ticino: 60 to 100 cm;
- furthermost western part of Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, remaining regions of the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, of the southern flank of the Alps and of the Main Alpine Ridge, Upper Engadine: 30 to 60 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, 15 to 30 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in northern regions and -2 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- During the night, winds in southern regions were blowing at strong velocity, in northern regions at light to moderate strength, from southerly directions;
- during the daytime, predominantly light winds, subsequently shifting to northerly and strengthening during the afternoon.

Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 1 April 2018

Weather forecast through Sunday, 01.04.2018

On Saturday night, skies will be overcast and in northern regions, snowfall in the form of showers is expected above approximately 800 m. During the morning hours on Easter Sunday the snowfall will come to an end in eastern regions. In the Valais and the Engadine it will become partly sunny during the course of the day. It will be predominantly sunny south of the Main Alpine Ridge.

Fresh snow

Between afternoon on Good Friday and afternoon on Easter Sunday, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above approximately 1400 m:

- northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 10 to 20 cm, from place to place as much as 30 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland 5 to 10 cm over widespread areas; south of the Main Alpine Ridge it will remain dry.

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds will be westerly to northwesterly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity.

Outlook through Tuesday, 03.04.2018

Monday

On Easter Sunday it will be quite sunny, accompanied by cloudbanks. In northern regions, foehn wind is expected to arise. In western and in southern regions, skies will become increasingly overcast during the course of the day. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will decrease. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will increase significantly during the course of the day. Gliding avalanches continue to be possible at any time.

Tuesday

On Tuesday it will be quite sunny in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps as a consequence of strong-velocity foehn wind. In western and southern regions, skies will be overcast, accompanied by light precipitation to begin with. The snowfall level in western regions will be 1800 m, in southern regions at 1300 m. The avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.