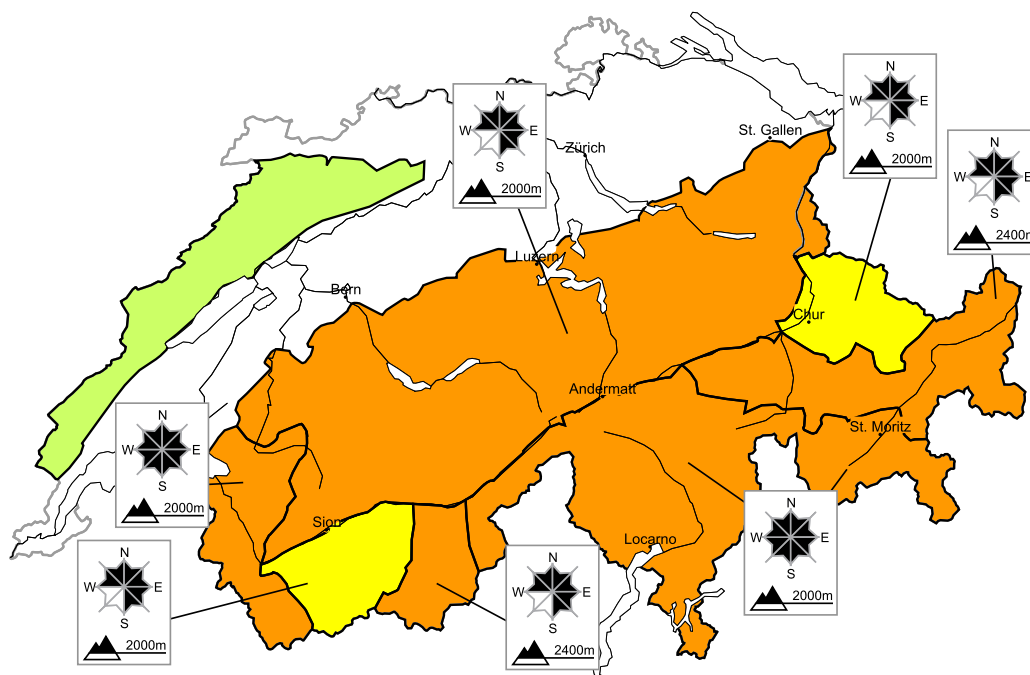


# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 5.4.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 5.4.2018, 17:00

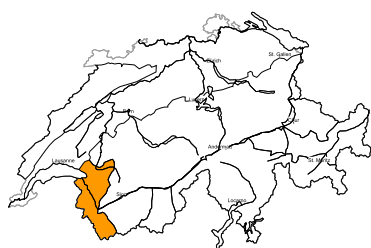
## Avalanche danger

updated on 5.4.2018, 08:00



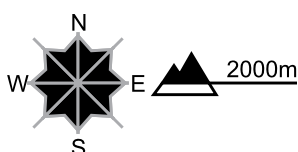
**region A**

**Level 3, considerable**



### Fresh snow and snow drifts

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. Somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases still prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and barely recognisable. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

### Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

On steep east, south and west facing slopes full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m. These can reach medium size.

**Danger levels**

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

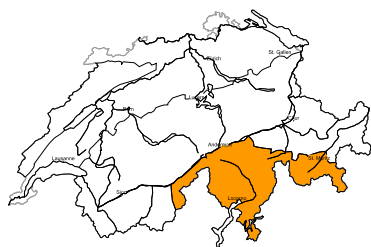
5 very high



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

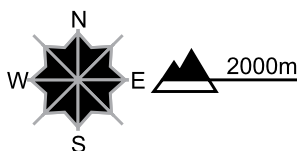
**region B**

**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 few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. As a consequence of the northerly wind further snow drift accumulations will form, this applies as the day progresses. 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.

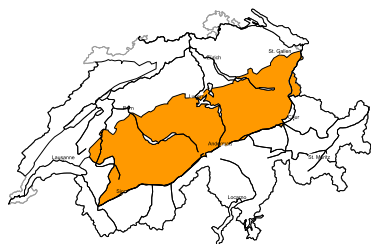
Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

**Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses**

On steep east, south and west facing slopes full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m. These can reach medium size in isolated cases.

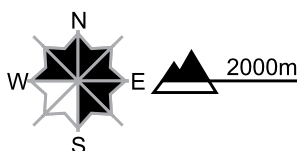
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of the westerly wind easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. Somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases still prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and barely recognisable. Avalanches can reach medium size in isolated cases. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

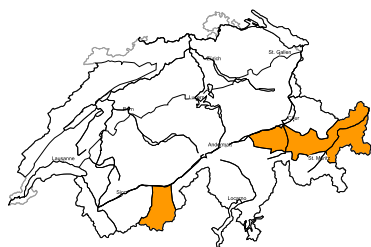
**Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses**

On steep east, south and west facing slopes full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m. These can reach medium size.



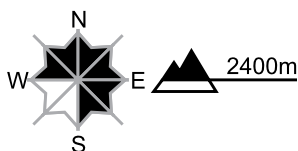
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of the westerly wind easily released snow drift accumulations will form. Somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases still prone to triggering. 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.

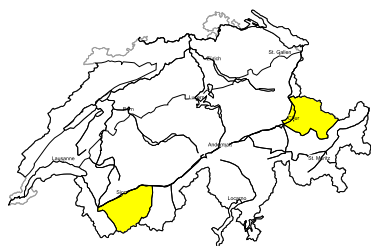
Avalanches can reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

**Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses**

On steep east, south and west facing slopes full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m. These can reach medium size.

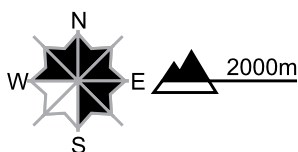
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of the westerly wind easily released snow drift accumulations will form. Somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases still prone to triggering. 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.

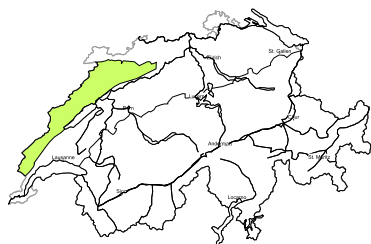
Mostly avalanches are small. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

**Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses**

On steep east, south and west facing slopes full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m. These can reach medium size.

**region F**

**Level 1, low**



**Wet avalanches**

Individual wet avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.4.2018, 17:00

### Snowpack

On Tuesday and Wednesday, snowdrift accumulations were generated afresh on west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes more than anywhere else, due to strong-velocity southerly winds. These drifted masses will still be prone to triggering in some places on Thursday, but are being blanketed over with fresher snowfall. In addition, strong-velocity westerly winds are generating further snowdrift accumulations.

Beneath the snowdrift accumulations, the snowpack is generally well consolidated. Nevertheless, the weak layers in the uppermost part of the old snow cover are still prone to triggering in some places in the Valais and in Grisons more than anywhere else.

The danger of wet-snow avalanches is diminishing somewhat as a result of dropping temperatures. Gliding avalanches continue to be expected. Due to the generally great snow depths, these releases can grow to dangerously large size.

### Observed weather on Wednesday, 04.04.2018

Following a night of predominantly overcast skies, in northern and western regions cloud cover swiftly moved in. In eastern regions, skies remained (under foehn influence) bright until afternoon. In southern regions there was snowfall above approximately 1500 m.

#### Fresh snow

Between Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 2000 m:

- central sector of the southern flank of the Alps, Upper Valais part of the Main Alpine Ridge directly on the Italian border as well as Val Bregaglia, Bernina and Val Poschiavo: 10 to 20 cm;
- Chablais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, western part of Lower Valais: 5 to 10 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, it remained largely dry.

#### Temperature

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

#### Wind

Winds were southerly,

- in southern regions blowing at light to moderate strength;
- in northern regions blowing at strong to storm velocity; in the Alpine valleys strong southerly foehn winds were blowing until afternoon.

### Weather forecast through Thursday, 05.04.2018

During the night in northern regions, precipitation is expected to set in. The snowfall level will descend from 1600 m down to 1200 m by morning. In eastern regions the snowfall is expected to persist until afternoon. In western regions, increasingly frequent bright intervals are expected starting at midday. In southern regions, the precipitation will come to and end in the early morning hours and it will become quite sunny as a result of northerly winds.

#### Fresh snow

Between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected above approximately 2000 m:

- furthestmost western part of Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps: 15 to 30 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: 5 to 15 cm.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in northern regions and +1 °C in southern regions.

#### Wind

- Winds in northern regions will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from western directions;
- in southern regions winds will to predominantly light to start with, subsequently during the course of the day blowing at moderate to strong velocity from the northwest, extending down into the valleys as northerly foehn wind in the valleys.

**Outlook** through Saturday, 07.04.2018

Following nights of clear skies, it will be sunny and mild on both days. The zero-degree level is expected to rise to nearly 3200 m in northern regions. In southern regions the zero-degree level will be at 2400 m on Friday, subsequently rise to 3000 as well on Saturday. Winds will remain light to moderate from southerly directions, in the Alpine valleys of the north, a foehn wind is expected to arise starting on Friday afternoon. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will decrease. The danger of wet-snow and gliding avalanches will increase significantly during the course of each day. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain should be brought to a close early in the day.