Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 8 April 2018

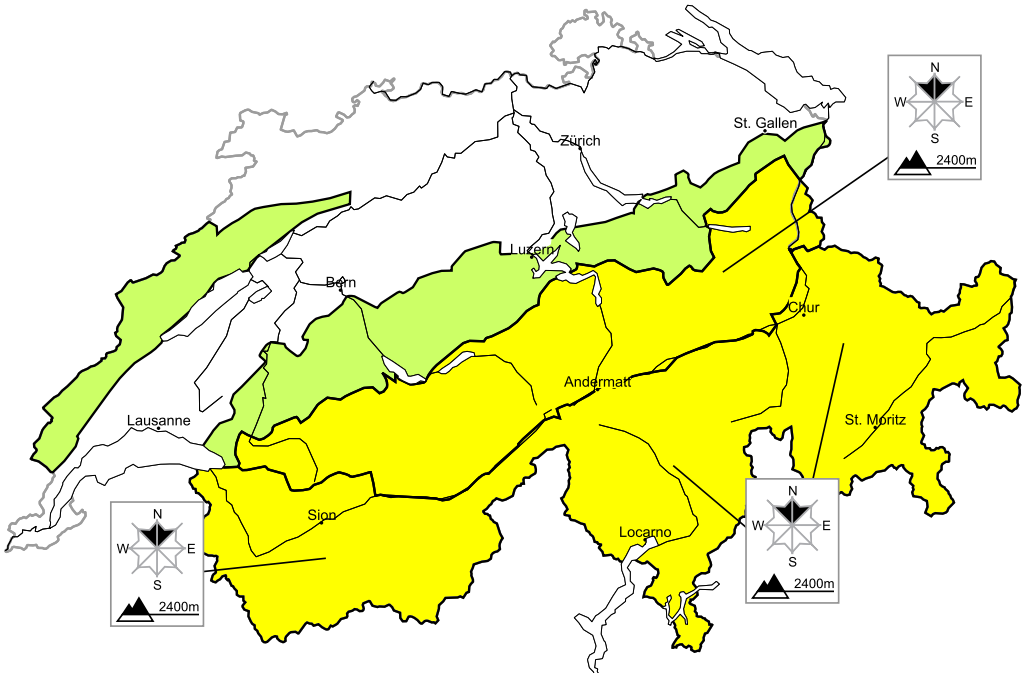
8.4.2018, 07:45

Increase in danger of wet and full-depth avalanches as the day progresses

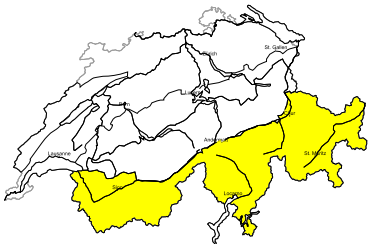
Edition: 8.4.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 8.4.2018, 17:00

Dry avalanches

updated on 8.4.2018, 08:00

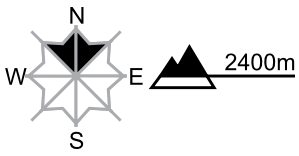


Dry, region A | **Level 2, moderate**



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Older snow drift accumulations can be released in isolated cases, but mostly only by large additional loads,. Fresh snow drift accumulations are only small. Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in deeper layers. At elevated altitudes avalanche prone locations are a little more prevalent. 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.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

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

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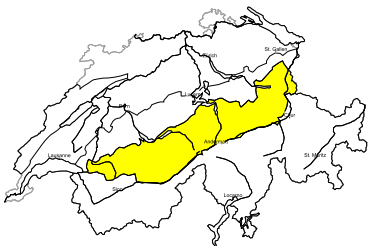
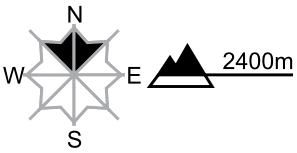
Dry, region B — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

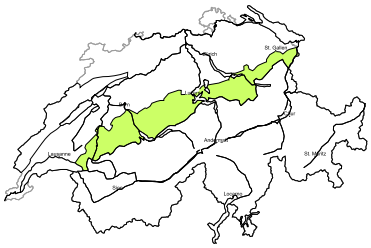


Danger description

Older snow drift accumulations can be released in isolated cases, but mostly only by large additional loads,. Fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but to be assessed with care and prudence. 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.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

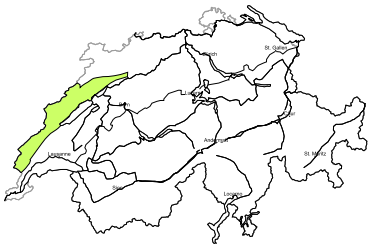
Dry, region C — Level 1, low



Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular on very steep shady slopes, especially at high altitude. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, region D — Level 1, low



Hardly any more dry avalanches are possible.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

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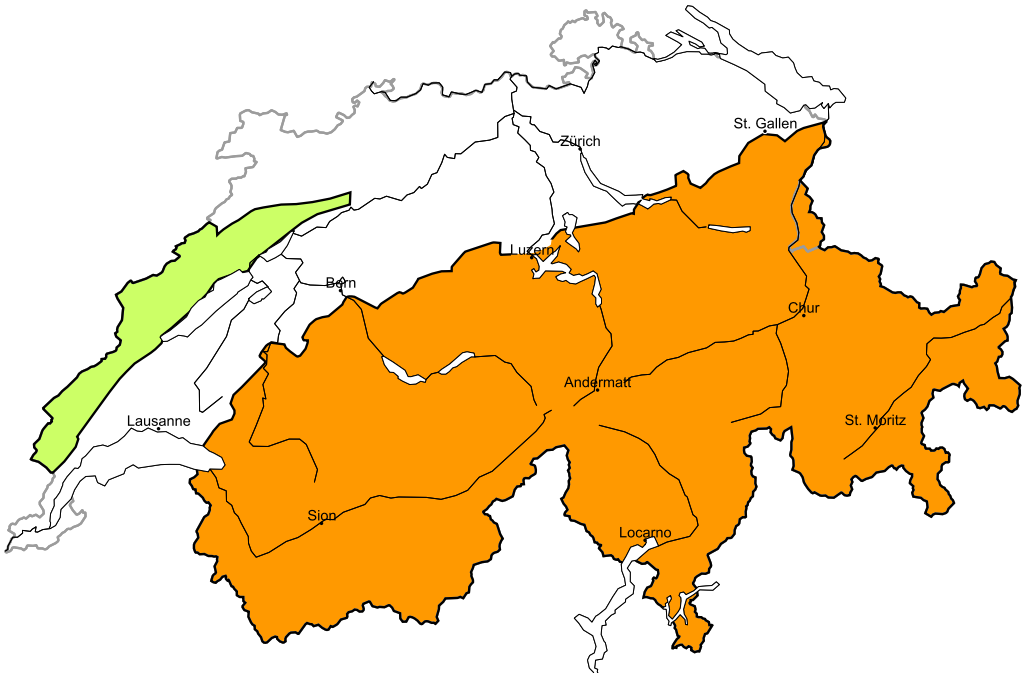
Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 8.4.2018, 08:00



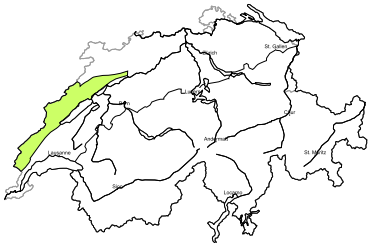
Wet, region A — Level 3, considerable

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2800 m. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found also on north facing slopes, in particular below approximately 2400 m. Backcountry tours should be started early and concluded timely. Exposed transportation routes can be endangered.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Wet, region B — Level 1, low



Wet avalanches as day progresses

Individual wet avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 7.4.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of the heightened temperatures, continuing wet-snow and gliding avalanches can be expected during the course of the day. Due to the extraordinary snow depths in most places, these avalanches can grow to dangerously large size.
The mild temperatures and intensive solar radiation have accelerated the settling and consolidating process of the uppermost layers of the snowpack on east-facing, south-facing and west-facing slopes more than anywhere else. Nevertheless, there are in some places still older, dry snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering, particularly on north-facing slopes; as well as weak layers in the uppermost part of the snow cover in the Valais and in Grisons more than anywhere else. Avalanche triggerings in these weak layers have become relatively rare, however. Beneath the weak layers the snowpack is in general well consolidated.

Observed weather on Saturday, 07.04.2018

It was sunny and mild, apart from dense cloudbanks in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri and some high-altitude clouds in western regions.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

· The zero-degree level in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps was at approximately 2500 m; in other regions of Switzerland the zero-degree level was above 3000 m over widespread areas.

Wind

Winds were southerly, blowing predominantly at moderate strength during the nighttime hours, during the daytime at light velocity; in the Alpine valleys of the north, a moderate-strength foehn wind was blowing in some places.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 08.04.2018

Nocturnal skies in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps will be heavily overcast for the most part and the conditions for outgoing longwave radiation are unfavourable. In western regions the outgoing radiation will also be reduced as a consequence of high-altitude clouds. In northeastern regions, skies will be predominantly clear. During the daytime in southern regions, skies will remain heavily overcast. In northern regions it will be quite sunny, in spite of clouds at intermediate altitudes.

Fresh snow

In southern regions above 2000 m, light snowfall is possible from place to place.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +8 °C in northern regions and +2 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from southerly directions in the mountains of the northern regions more than anywhere else; in the Alpine valleys, a strong-velocity foehn wind will be blowing, intensifying during the afternoon.

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Outlook through Tuesday, 10.04.2018

The foehn scenario is expected to persist. In southern regions, skies will be heavily overcast for the most part and above approximately 1800 m a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. In western regions, skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by bright intervals; little or no precipitation at all is expected. In northeastern regions it will be quite sunny and dry. During the night from Sunday to Monday, a storm-strength southerly foehn wind will be blowing. On Monday, it will incrementally slacken off. On Tuesday, temperatures are expected to drop somewhat.
In northern regions, the avalanche scenario will be a pronounced springtime situation, with predominantly favourable conditions in the early morning hours and subsequently, increasing danger of wet-snow and gliding avalanches during the afternoon. In southern regions the daytime danger cycle effect will be only minor. As a result of fresh snow the danger of dry-snow avalanches could well increase somewhat at high altitudes more than anywhere else. The danger of wet-snow and gliding avalanches will be somewhat reduced as a consequence of cloud cover and dropping temperatures.