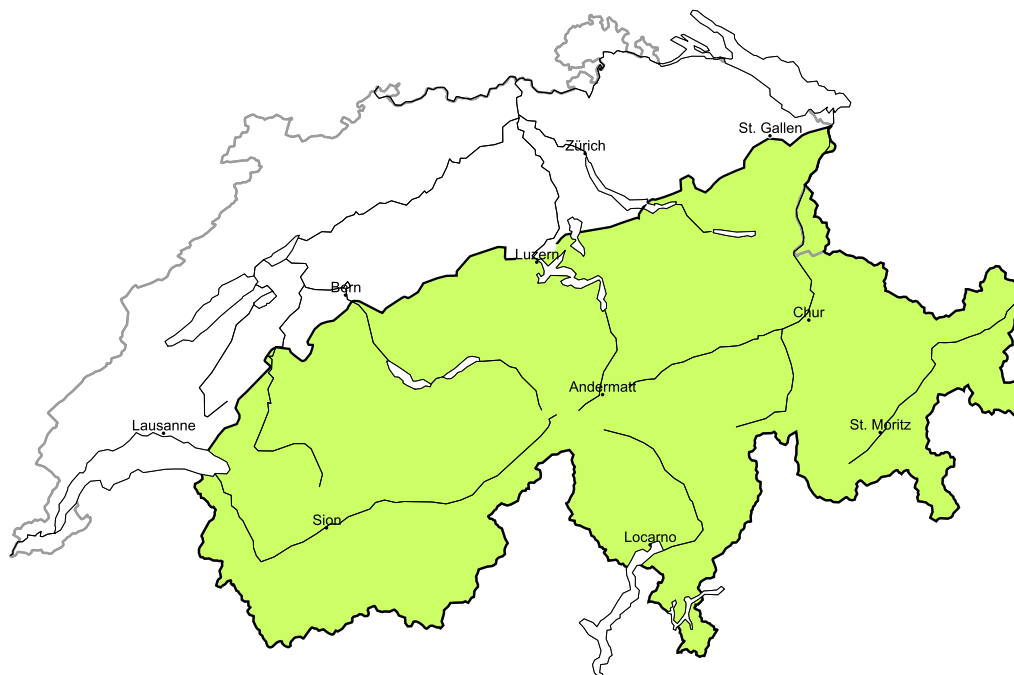


In the early morning a favourable avalanche situation will prevail. Full-depth and wet avalanches as the day progresses

Edition: 21.4.2018, 17:00 / Next update: 22.4.2018, 17:00

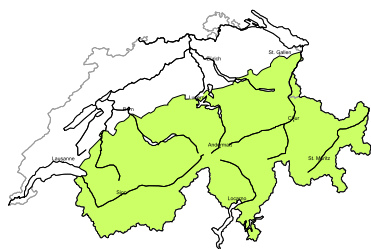
Dry avalanches

updated on 21.4.2018, 17:00



Dry

Level 1, low



Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain and adjacent to the ridge line. Caution is to be exercised in particular on north facing slopes in high Alpine regions. 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)

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

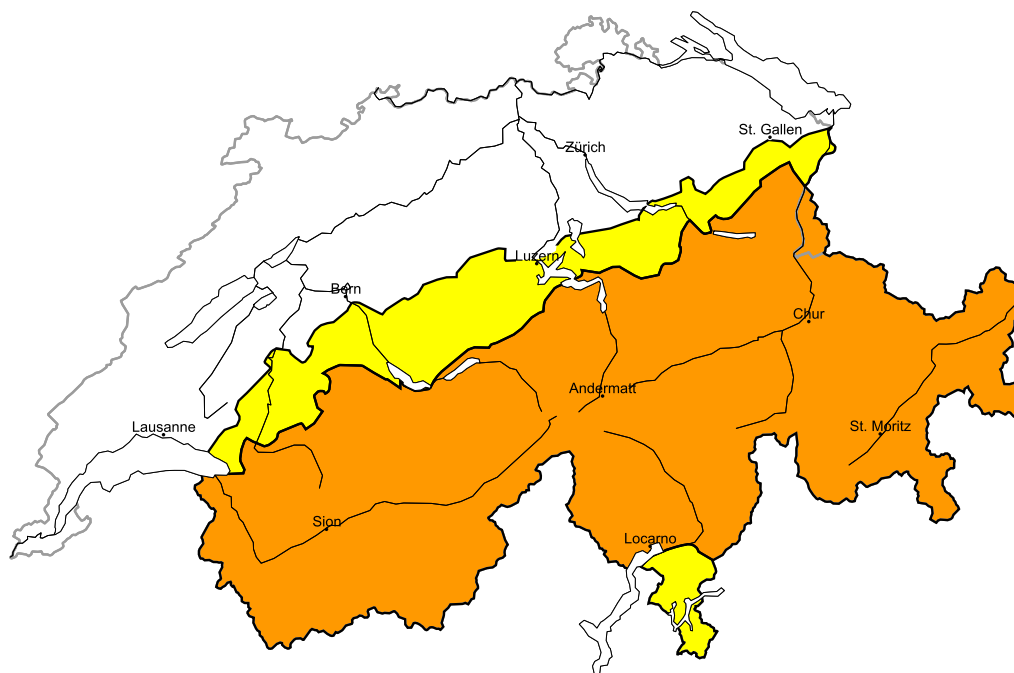
5 very high



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

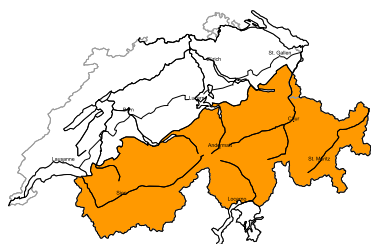
Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 21.4.2018, 17:00



Wet, region A

Level 3, considerable



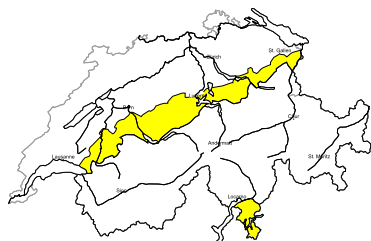
Wet avalanches as day progresses

In the late morning as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation there will be a rapid increase in the danger of wet and full-depth avalanches. Full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in east to south to west facing aspects below approximately 3000 m and on north facing slopes below approximately 2500 m. Large avalanches are possible in starting zones where no previous releases have taken place. In avalanche paths that are already filled with snow in particular these can in some cases reach intermediate altitudes. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be started early and concluded timely. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Wet, region B

Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches as day progresses

In the late morning as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation there will be a rapid increase in the danger of wet and full-depth avalanches. From origins in starting zones where no previous releases have taken place full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, including quite large ones. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects. Backcountry tours should be started very early and concluded timely. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.4.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

The snow cover on steep, south-facing slopes is thoroughly wet up as far as high alpine regions. On north-facing slopes the snowpack is becoming increasingly wet as high up as approximately 2500 m. As a consequence of nocturnal outgoing radiation, a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads tends to form at high altitudes. Below approximately 2000 m, the snowpack surface can hardly freeze at night, due to the heightened temperatures. As a result of solar radiation and daytime warming, the snowpack subsequently forfeits much of its firmness quite rapidly during the course of the morning. Wet-snow and gliding-snow avalanches can be expected. Due to the extraordinary snow depths in many places, these avalanches can in isolated cases grow to large size.

Avalanche prone locations for dry-snow avalanches are found on north-facing slopes in high alpine regions more than anywhere else, however they occur seldom.

The snow line on north-facing slopes of the northern flank of the Alps is at 1200 to 1400 m; in other regions of Switzerland it is at 1600 to 1800 m. On south-facing slopes it is approximately 400 m higher.

Observed weather on Saturday, 21.04.2018

Following a night of clear skies, it was sunny and quite mild.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +8 °C and +12 °C. The zero-degree level was at 3500 m.

Wind

Nocturnal winds, particularly on the northern Alpine Ridge, were southeasterly, blowing at moderate strength in some places. Otherwise winds were light.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 22.04.2018

Following a night of clear skies, it will be sunny and quite mild. During the afternoon, some convective cloud build-up can be expected. In the evening, local showers cannot be ruled out.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +10 °C. The zero-degree level will be at 3300 m.

Wind

Winds will be light, blowing at moderate strength in some places of the high alpine regions in the west of Switzerland, from the southwest.

Outlook through Tuesday, 24.04.2018

Monday

On Sunday night in northern regions, skies will become increasingly overcast. On the northern flank of the Alps, the nocturnal outgoing radiation will be severely reduced and the snowpack will barely be able to freeze during the night, including at high altitudes. In the inneralpine and southern regions, a thin melt-freeze crust might be able to form, despite reduced outgoing radiation. During the daytime, precipitation is anticipated from the west and isolated thunderstorms are possible. In southern regions, skies will remain ongoingly overcast and during the course of the day showers will be possible there as well. The snowfall level will be at 2800 m. Due to the reduced levels of nocturnal outgoing radiation, coupled with the expected precipitation, the major danger will stem from wet-snow and gliding-snow avalanches and will threaten all day long. In the high alpine regions of the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, the danger of dry-snow avalanches could increase somewhat.

Tuesday

During Monday night, skies will again clear. It is expected to remain overcast for longest in the northeastern regions, there nocturnal outgoing radiation will consequently be poorest. During the daytime on Tuesday it will be quite sunny, in spite of high-altitude cloudbanks. Temperatures are expected to drop slightly.

In western and in southern regions, the avalanche danger levels correspond to the springtime situation, including favourable conditions in the early morning hours, subsequently an increase in the frequency of wet-snow and gliding-snow avalanches during the course of the day. In northeastern regions, due to the reduced nocturnal outgoing radiation, the danger of wet-snow and gliding-snow avalanches will be heightened already in the early morning hours. The danger of dry-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly.