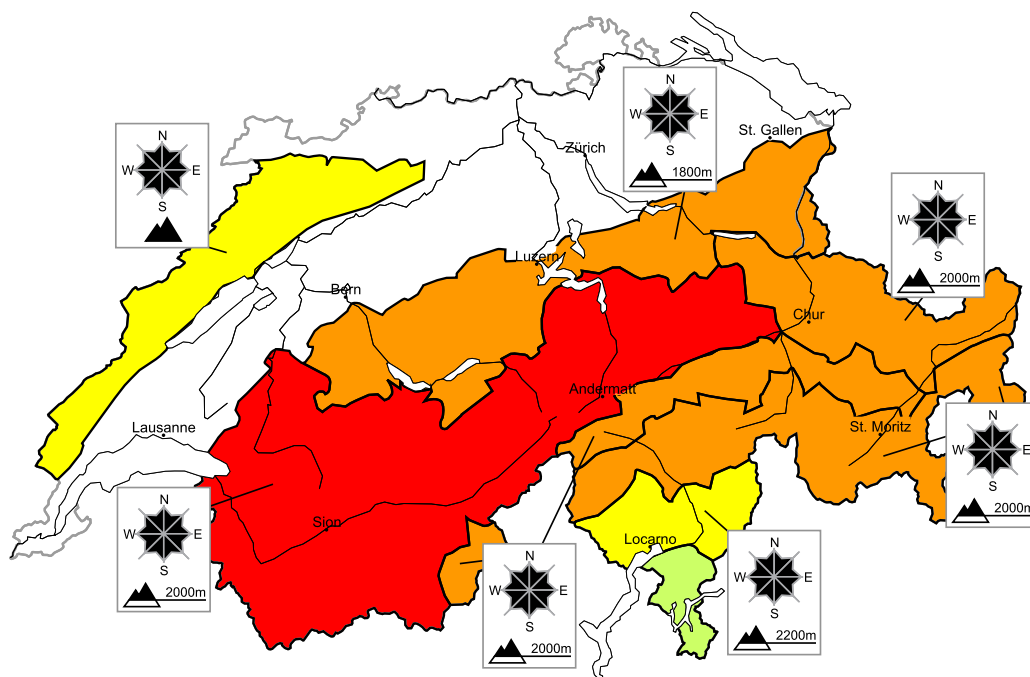


As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather a high avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 15.3.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 15.3.2019, 17:00

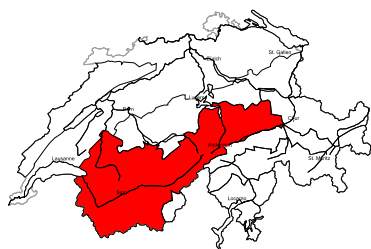
Avalanche danger

updated on 15.3.2019, 08:00



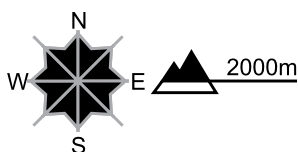
region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The storm force wind has transported the fresh snow significantly. Natural avalanches are to be expected. They can penetrate even deep layers and reach very large size. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in some cases. Avalanches can in many places be released very easily. The conditions are very critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain more frequent wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m., also on north facing slopes.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

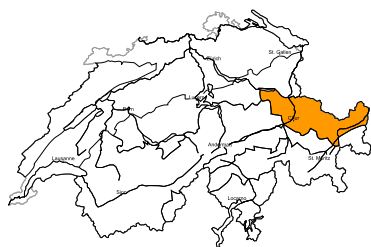
5 very high



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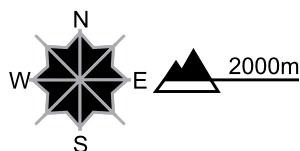
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

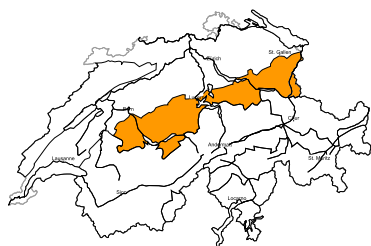
As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force northwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. Fresh snow and wind slabs can be released easily. More frequent natural avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses, even very large ones in isolated cases. As the day progresses at elevated altitudes there will be an additional increase in the avalanche danger to level 4 (high). Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain more frequent wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected below approximately 1800 m., also on north facing slopes.

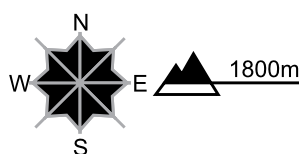
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

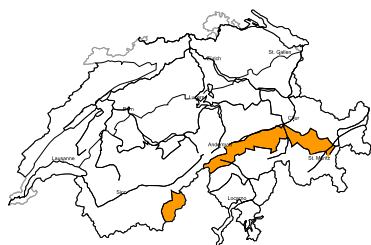
As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force wind from westerly directions, further wind slabs will form. Fresh snow and wind slabs can be released easily. Natural avalanches are possible, even large ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain more frequent wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected below approximately 1800 m., also on north facing slopes.

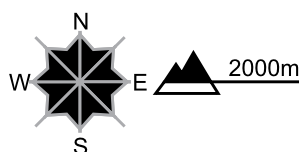
region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

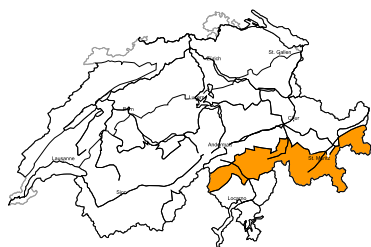
As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force northwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Natural avalanches are possible. They can in some cases reach large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

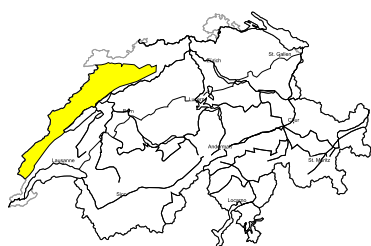


Danger description

As a consequence of a strong to storm force northwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. They represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

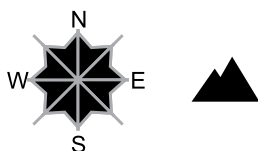
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations

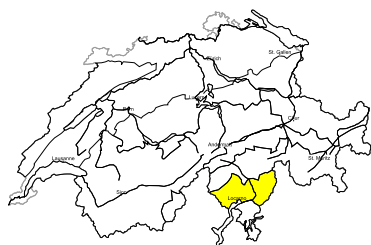


Danger description

As a consequence of the rain small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected. This applies especially on very steep slopes. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

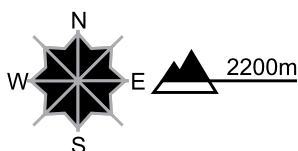
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain,, also at a distance from ridgelines. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region H

Level 1, low



In the vicinity of peaks only a little snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 14.3.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

During the night tonight and until Friday midday, precipitation in western and northern regions will be quite intensive. In addition, storm-strength westerly to northwesterly winds will transport massive amounts of snow. Wide-ranging snowdrift accumulations are expected to form down to the timberline. Fresh snow and snowdrifts will be deposited on top of loosely-bonded layers of fresh snow from previous days, in some places. Beneath these layers the old snowpack is well consolidated in most places, excluding on wind-protected north-facing slopes and in places where the snow is shallow. There, the old snowpack is expansively metamorphosed (faceted) to a great degree and loosely-bonded.

Observed weather on Thursday, 14.03.2019

Skies were heavily overcast over widespread areas, accompanied by precipitation in the form of showers in the western and northern regions more than anywhere else. During the afternoon, precipitation intensified starting in the west. The snowfall level lay at 600 to 1000 m. South of the Main Alpine Ridge it was partly sunny.

Fresh snow

All in all since the beginning of this round of precipitation on Tuesday evening until Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 1500 m:

- Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, northern Alpine Ridge: 20 to 40 cm, from place to place as much as 50 cm;
- Jura region, remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Valais, remaining parts of Gotthard region, northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, up to 10 cm from place to place; in the furthestmost southern regions it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -5 °C in the northern regions and -3 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds in the northern regions were blowing at moderate to strong velocity, at strong to storm-velocity during the afternoon in the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, from westerly to northwesterly directions;
- in the southern regions: winds were blowing at light to moderate strength from northwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Friday, 15.03.2019

Skies will be heavily overcast and precipitation is anticipated over widespread areas. In the western and the northern regions, precipitation will be intensive during the nighttime hours; subsequently the precipitation will move towards the east and slacken off somewhat during the course of the day. In the mountains, a storm-strength northwesterly wind will be blowing which will intensively transport the fresh snow, and also the loosely-bonded old snow. The snowfall level is expected to ascend starting in the west to 1500 to 1800 m, in the western regions up to 2000 m. In the furthestmost southern regions, it is expected to remain dry for the most part and turn rather sunny during the course of the day.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon above approximately 2000 m:

- Northern Alpine Ridge from Chablais into the Urner Alps, Valais not including Saastal and not including the southern Simplon region: 60 to 80 cm;
- remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps, Prättigau, Silvretta, Samnaun: 40 to 60 cm;
- Saastal, southern Simplon region, remaining parts of the Gotthard region and remaining parts of Grisons not including the southern valleys: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining parts of northern Ticino, central Ticino, southern valleys of Grisons: 5 to 20 cm;
- in Sottoceneri it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the northern regions and +3 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be blowing at strong to storm strength from westerly to northwesterly directions.

Outlook through Sunday, 17.03.2019

On Friday night in northern and in eastern regions, a small amount of precipitation is anticipated. During the daytime on Saturday, it will be predominantly sunny. The zero-degree level will ascend to approximately 3000 m. On Sunday it will be sunny during the morning as a result of foehn influence, during the afternoon skies will become increasingly overcast starting in the west. The danger of naturally triggered, dry-snow avalanches is expected to decrease. For backcountry snow sports in outlying terrain away from marked and secured ski runs, the situation on the weekend will still be treacherous in the northern and western regions. During the course of each day, wet-snow and glide-snow avalanches can be expected on steep, sun-drenched slopes. In the southern regions, avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.