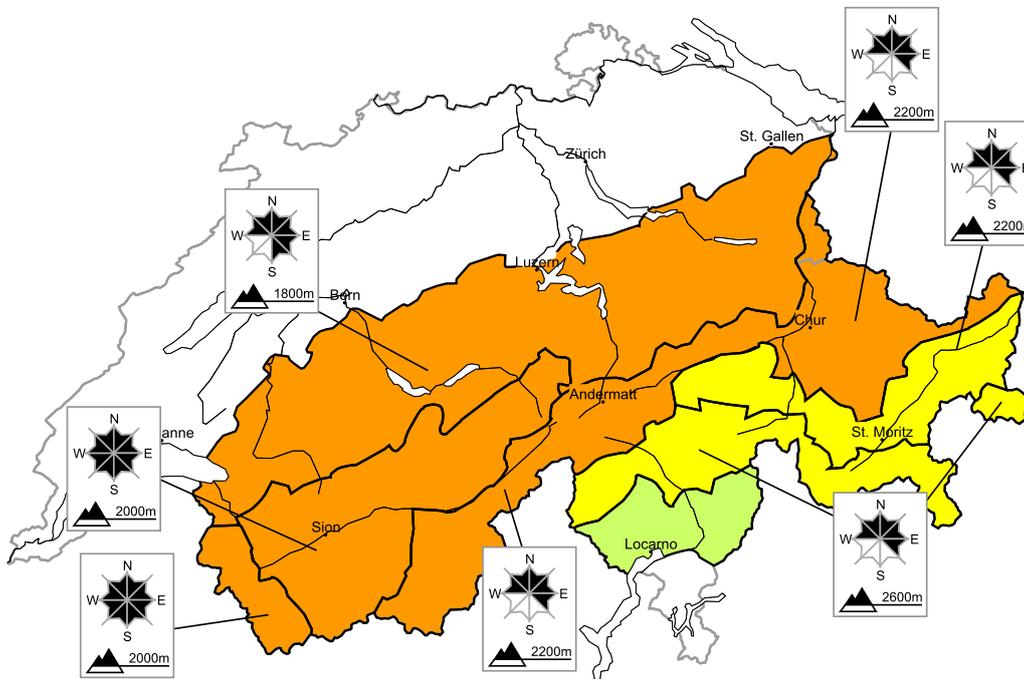


A critical avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 8.1.2016, 17:00 / Next update: 9.1.2016, 08:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 8.1.2016, 17:00

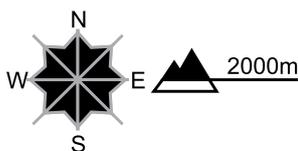


region A **Level 3, considerable**



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The more recent snow drift accumulations are in many cases large and can in some cases be released easily. Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate down to the ground and reach dangerously large size. Individual natural avalanches are still possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes remain critical. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Wet avalanches

Moist snow slides and avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

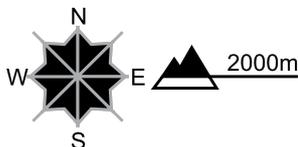
region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The more recent snow drift accumulations are in many cases large and can in some cases be released easily. Avalanches can penetrate down to the ground and reach dangerously large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger.

Remote triggering is possible.

Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for great caution and restraint.

Wet avalanches

Moist snow slides are possible below approximately 2000 m.

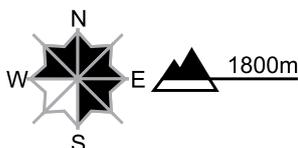
region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly easy to recognise but prone to triggering. The fresh and older snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes above approximately 2200 m. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

Moist snow slides are possible below approximately 2000 m.

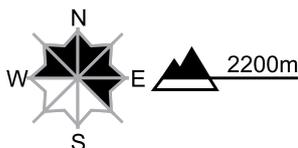
region D

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Over a wide area snow drift accumulations are lying on old snow containing large grains. Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow, even by a single winter sport participant. Remote triggering is possible. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

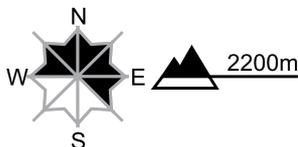
region E

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Avalanches can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep north facing slopes as well as in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

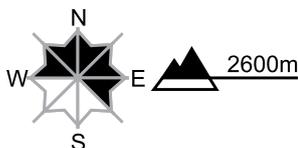
region F

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Only a little snow is lying. Fresh snow drift accumulations are rather small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in extreme terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region G

Level 1, low



Favourable situation

Hardly any snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 8.1.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

Superficial snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering were deposited on top of the snow cover surface over widespread areas during the last few days. In western and northern regions, these drifted masses are larger than in southeastern regions.

Both the new fallen and newly drifted snow from the week of the New Year were deposited atop a heavily faceted and loosely-packed snow cover surface, in some places atop a snowpack blanketed with surface hoar, in widespread areas on shady slopes in wind-protected zones at high altitudes and in high alpine regions. For that reason, these freshly deposited layers are bonded extremely inadequately with the old snowpack beneath them. Avalanches can fracture at this embedded junction of layers and, particularly in western regions, reach dangerously large size.

Observed weather on Friday, 8.1.2016

In Sotto Ceneri it was quite sunny. Otherwise, following the final bright spells in the furthest eastern regions, skies were overcast for the most part. During the morning, new, light snowfall set in from the west. The snowfall level on the northern flank of the Alps was between 1600 and 2000 m; in other regions it was lower.

Fresh snow

By Friday evening above approximately 2000 m in the western part of Lower Valais, 5 to 10 cm of new fallen snow was registered; in other regions, less.

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds were blowing from westerly to southwesterly directions, in the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps at moderate to strong velocity, in Ticino and in Grisons at light to moderate strength. The winds tended to intensify during the course of the day.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 9.1.2016

Skies are expected to be overcast, accompanied by intermittent snowfall. The snowfall level will drop from approximately 2000m down to about 1400 m.

Fresh snow

By Saturday evening above approximately 2000 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are anticipated:

- furthest western part of Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm
- remaining parts of Lower Valais, northern Valais, northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm
- Grisons, Ticino: 5 to 15 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -1 °C.

Wind

Winds will be southwesterly to westerly during the night, blowing at strong to storm velocity. During the day, winds are expected to taper off significantly.

Outlook through Monday, 11.1.2016

Skies will be heavily overcast by and large, and above approximately 1000 m snowfall can be frequently expected. In western regions, approximately 30 to 50 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated; in eastern and southern regions, approximately 10 to 30 cm. Winds will be westerly to southwesterly, particularly in the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps blowing at strong to storm velocity. The avalanche danger levels are expected to remain tense and threatening.