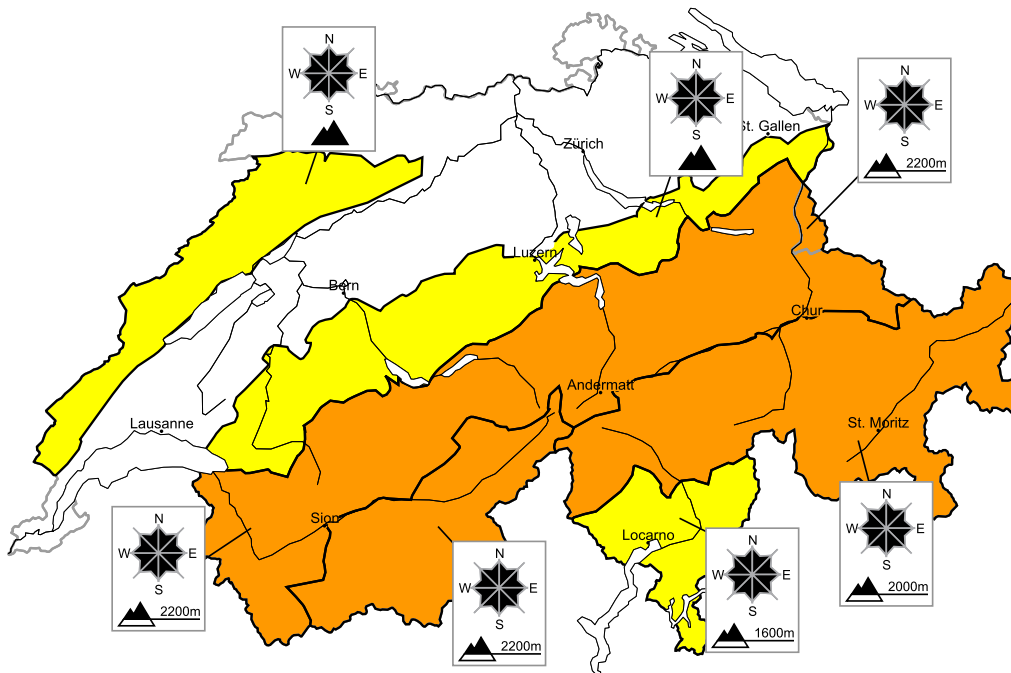


# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 31.12.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 31.12.2017, 17:00

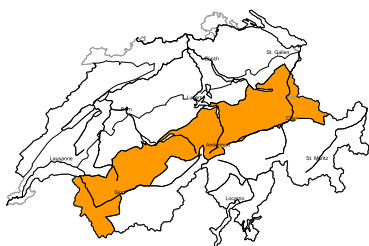
## Avalanche danger

updated on 31.12.2017, 08:00



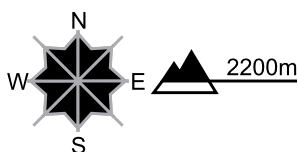
**region A**

**Level 3, considerable**



### Fresh snow and snow drifts

#### Avalanche prone locations



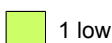
#### Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. As a consequence of solar radiation natural avalanches are possible, in particular on steep south facing slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

### Wet and full-depth avalanches

Small and medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2200 m.

**Danger levels**



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



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

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 30.12.2017, 17:00

### Snowpack

To some extent large-sized snowdrift accumulations formed at high altitudes on Saturday, particularly on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais and in high alpine regions in general. Additional snowdrift accumulations are expected to form on Sunday as a result of westerly winds which will be blowing at strong velocity in some places. Fresh snow and fresh snowdrifts are prone to triggering. Also naturally triggered avalanches are possible.

The snowpack in the southern Valais, in the Upper Valais, in the northern parts of the Ticino, in central Grisons, in the Engadin and in the southern valleys of Grisons, more than anywhere else, is only weakly consolidated at its base. In those regions, avalanches can be triggered in the layers of snow nearest to the ground, particularly on west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes above approximately 2000 m.

On Saturday in northern and western regions the snow cover was severely weakened by intensive rainfall at intermediate altitudes, even extending down to low altitudes. As soon as the rainfall comes to an end, the wet-snow avalanche activity is expected to diminish.

### Observed weather on Saturday, 30.12.2017

Skies were heavily overcast, accompanied by intermittently intensive precipitation in western and in northern regions. The snowfall level during the night was initially in low lying areas, subsequently it ascended swiftly. On Saturday afternoon, the snowfall level in western regions lay at 2300 m, in eastern regions at 2000 m.

#### Fresh snow

Between Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of snowfall were registered above approximately 2400 m:

- northern Alpine Ridge from Les Diablerets into the Glarner Alps, Valais: 30 to 50 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Ticino, remaining parts of northern and central Grisons, northern Engadine: 10 to 30 cm;
- further to the south, less; in the furthestmost southern regions it remained dry.

#### Temperature

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

#### Wind

Winds were westerly,

- blowing at strong to storm velocity in the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps;
- blowing at moderate to strong velocity in Grisons and in the Ticino.

### Weather forecast through Sunday, 31.12.2017

On Saturday night the precipitation will come to an end, including in eastern regions. The snowfall level will be at about 2200 m. In western regions, nocturnal skies will be partially clear. During the daytime on Sunday it will be sunny in the mountains, and very mild.

#### Fresh snow

Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, the following amounts of snowfall are anticipated above approximately 2400 m:

- northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland into the Glarner Alps: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais, northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, less; or else it will remain dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +5 °C in western regions and +3 °C in eastern and southern regions.

#### Wind

Winds will be westerly,

- in northern regions blowing at predominantly strong velocity in the Prealps and at high altitudes in general;
- in southern regions blowing at moderate strength.

**Outlook** through Tuesday, 02.01.2018

During the night of New Year's Eve, a small amount of snowfall from the northwest is anticipated above approximately 1000 m. During the daytime on New Year's Day, extensive sunny intervals are anticipated in northern regions, coming from the west. In southern regions it will be quite sunny. In the evening, snowfall will recommence. On January 2nd in northern regions, snowfall is expected down to low lying areas which will be heavy from region to region on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais. In southern regions it will be quite sunny as a result of the northerly winds. On both days, a strong to storm-strength wind will be blowing, from the west on New Year's Day, from the northwest on 2nd January. The danger of dry-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly on New Year's Day. On 2nd January, however, danger levels will increase in the major areas of precipitation. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will decrease significantly as temperatures recede.