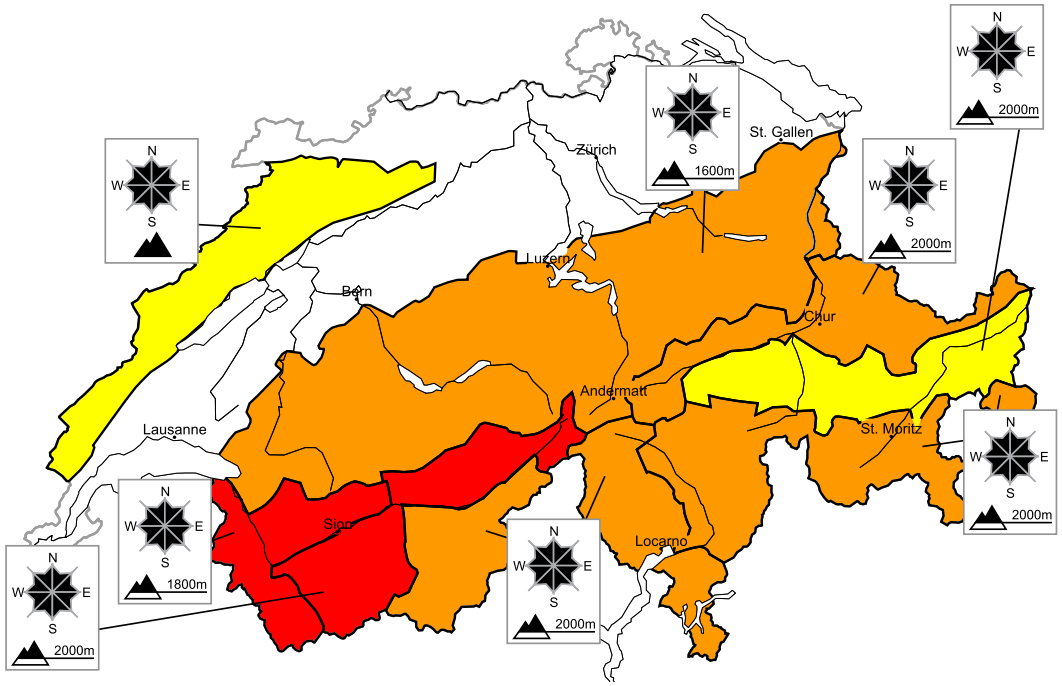
In the west a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

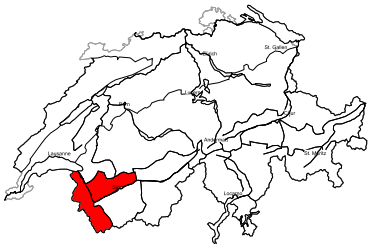
Edition: 11.12.2017, 08:00 / Next update: 11.12.2017, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 11.12.2017, 08:00

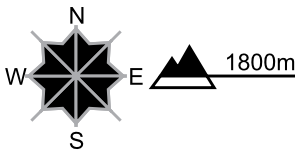


region A — Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



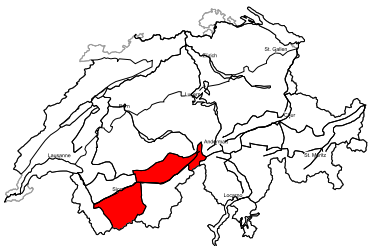
Danger description

The storm force wind will transport the fresh snow significantly. Extensive snow drift accumulations will form. These are prone to triggering. Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large natural avalanches are to be expected. The off-piste conditions are very critical. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

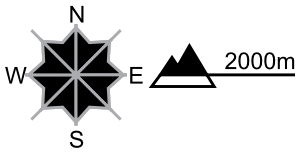
Mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible on steep grassy slopes. This applies in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m as well as on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.
Below approximately 2000 m wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

region B — Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



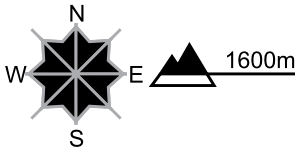
Danger description

The storm force wind will transport the fresh snow significantly. The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Avalanches can in many places penetrate down to the ground and reach dangerously large size, especially in Lower Valais. Natural avalanches are to be expected. The backcountry and freeriding conditions are very critical. Snow sport participants with little experience in the assessment of avalanche danger should remain on the open pistes.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The storm force wind will transport the fresh snow significantly. The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. Natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

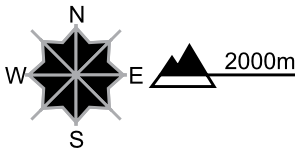
Wet and full-depth avalanches

Mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible on steep grassy slopes. This applies in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m as well as on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.
Below approximately 2000 m wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

region D — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather snow drift accumulations will form. As the day progresses the snow drift accumulations will increase in size appreciably. They will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. From the middle of the day natural avalanches are possible, including medium-sized ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.12.2017, 17:00

Snowpack

The fresh snow is currently being deposited on top of the snow which fell on Saturday amidst low temperatures and is, on the uppermost surface, loosely-packed or influenced by the wind. At the transitional borderlines to the old snow, or on the southern flank of the Alps and in the Engadine, there are still loosely-packed layers consisting of faceted snow crystals on shady slopes, more than anywhere else. As a result of the southwesterly storm-strength winds and the persistently mild temperatures, wide-ranging, slablike snowdrift accumulations are forming. These snowdrift accumulations are very easily triggerable.
In places where the snow is shallow, as well as in regions where there has been little snowfall, that is, in southern Upper Valais, Ticino, central Grisons and the Engadine, more than anywhere else, the old snow cover in many places consists of faceted snow crystals and is loosely-packed all the way down to the ground. In all regions of Switzerland, the old snow cover harbors weak layers in some places, which stability tests have demonstrated to be easily triggerable. Avalanche releases are possible in the old snow.
Particularly in the northern regions where snowfall has been heaviest, gliding avalanches continue to be possible.

Observed weather on Sunday, 10.12.2017

Following a night of predominantly clear skies, precipitation set in rapidly from the west during the early morning hours. The snowfall level ascended to nearly 1000 m by afternoon.

Fresh snow

By Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of snowfall were registered:
· in the Valais not including the valleys of Visp and not including the Simplon region: 15 to 30 cm;
· in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, in the valleys of Visp and in the Simplon region: 5 to 15 cm;
· in the other regions of Switzerland: less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -1 °C in northern regions, -12 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds were southwesterly, on Saturday night and Sunday morning intensifying significantly, at midday blowing at strong to storm strength, in the alpine valleys of the north as foehn wind.

Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 11 December 2017

11.12.2017, 07:51

Weather forecast through Monday, 11.12.2017

On Sunday night, the precipitation on the northern flank of the Alps will slacken off incrementally. During the morning on Monday, it is expected to be predominantly dry in northern regions. In the afternoon, renewed precipitation will set in from the west and the south. The snowfall level will lie between 1800 and 2500 m to begin with. As evening approaches, the snowfall level is expected to descend significantly. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, snowfall all day long is anticipated, most of it in the zone between Lukmanier Pass and Val Müstair and southwards therefrom. During the afternoon, the precipitation is expected to intensify. The snowfall level will be beneath 1000 m.

Fresh snow

Between Sunday evening and Monday evening, the following amounts of snowfall are anticipated at high altitudes:

- Main Alpine Ridge from Lukmanier Pass into Val Müstair and southwards therefrom: 40 to 60 cm;
- furthermost western part of Lower Valais, Main Alpine Ridge from Great St. Bernard as far as the Lukmanier Pass, western part of Ticino: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: less than 20 cm; in the foehn-exposed regions on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, it is expected to remain predominantly dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in northern regions and -3 °C in southern regions; in the foehn-exposed regions, +4 °C.

Wind

Winds will be southwesterly,

- blowing predominantly at storm strength, reaching gale strength on the northern flank of the Alps.
- Storm-strength foehn winds will prevail in the Alpine valleys.

Outlook through Wednesday, 13.12.2017

Tuesday

On the southern flank of the Alps, ongoing and intensive snowfall is expected to persist until Tuesday morning, most of which will fall in the zone between Lukmanier Pass and Val Müstair and southwards therefrom. Thereafter, it will be dry. In northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by snow showers. The southwesterly winds will slacken off incrementally. It will again become significantly colder. The avalanche danger will remain at critical levels, particularly in southern regions in the major areas of precipitation.

Wednesday

In all regions of Switzerland, it will be quite sunny for a short interim. The avalanche danger will slowly decrease, but the situation will remain critical for backcountry skiers and freeriders.