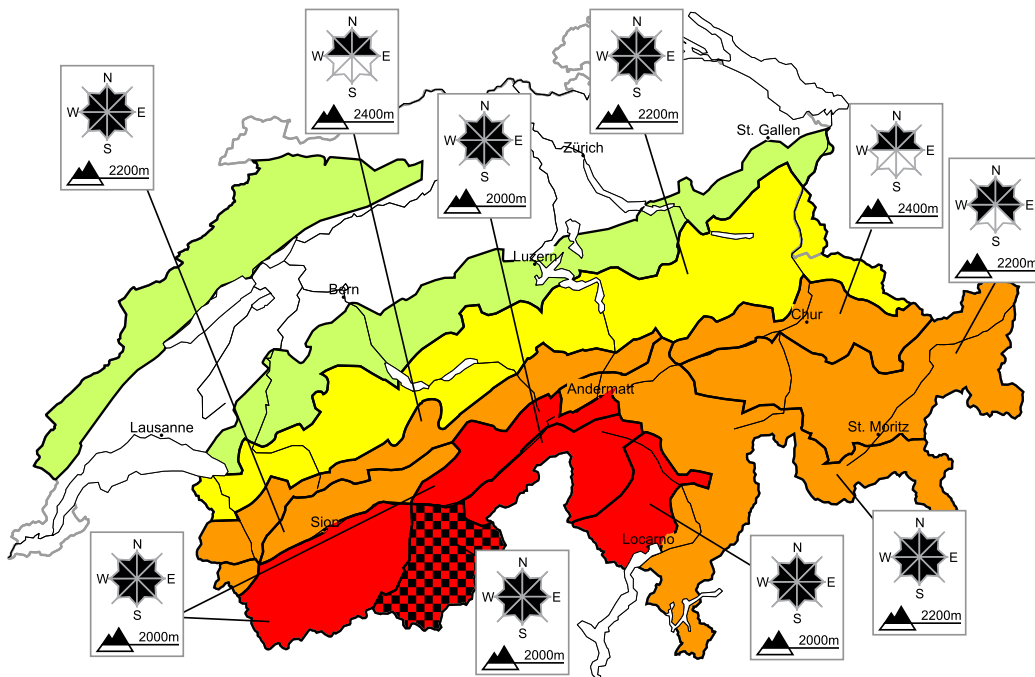


# In southern Upper Valais a very high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 9.1.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 9.1.2018, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 9.1.2018, 08:00



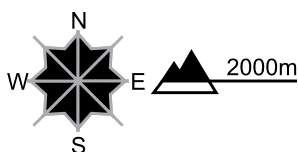
### region A

### Level 5, very high



### Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



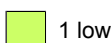
#### Danger description

Numerous large and, in many cases, very large natural dry avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind. From starting zones that have retained some snow the avalanches can reach an exceptionally long way. Exposed buildings and exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered. Extensive safety measures are to be maintained in particular for the late morning. In the afternoon the natural avalanche activity will decrease. Without question, it is inadvisable to engage in ski touring, freeriding and snowshoe hiking outside marked and open pistes.

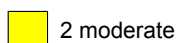
### Wet and full-depth avalanches

More frequent full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, in particular on steep slopes below approximately 2000 m as well as on road cut slopes.

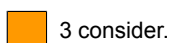
#### Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

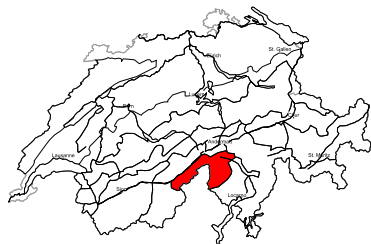


5 very high



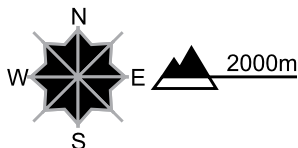
region B

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

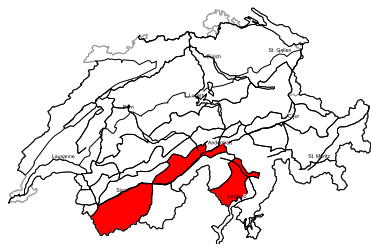
Large and, in isolated cases, very large natural dry avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind. In the typical avalanche paths the avalanches can reach the valleys. Exposed buildings and exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered. Temporary safety measures are to be maintained in particular for the late morning. In the afternoon the natural avalanche activity will decrease. The conditions are very dangerous for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

More frequent full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, in particular on steep slopes below approximately 2000 m as well as on road cut slopes.

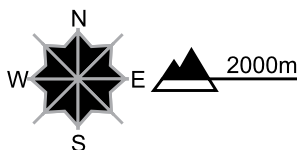
region C

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

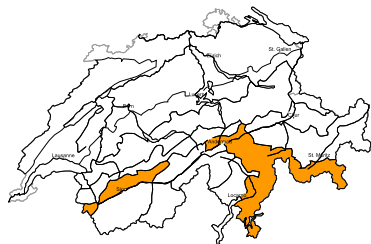
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are very prone to triggering. Additionally avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. The danger exists in particular in alpine snow sports terrain. Numerous small and medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. In isolated cases, however, large avalanches capable of endangering exposed parts of transportation routes are also possible. The conditions are very critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

More frequent full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, in particular on steep slopes below approximately 2000 m as well as on road cut slopes.

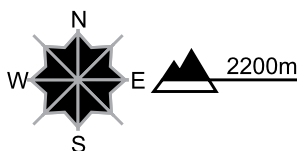
region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size. Natural avalanches are possible. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience and restraint.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, in particular on steep slopes below approximately 2000 m as well as on road cut slopes.

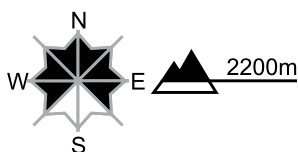
region E

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

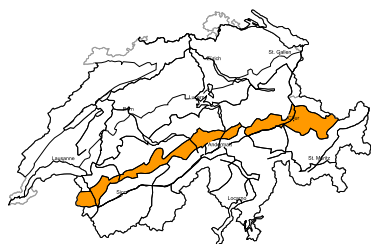
As a consequence of the southerly wind further snow drift accumulations have formed. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

More full-depth avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2200 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

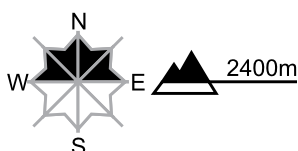
region F

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

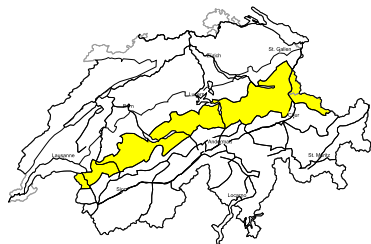
As a consequence of the southerly wind further snow drift accumulations have formed, especially at elevated altitudes. They are to be found adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects. Mostly avalanches are small but easily released. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Full-depth avalanches

More full-depth avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

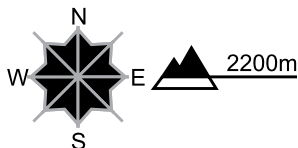
**region G**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

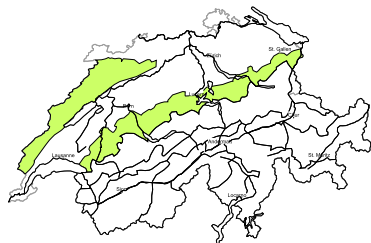
At elevated altitudes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. These are rather small. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Careful route selection is recommended.

**Full-depth avalanches**

More full-depth avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

**region H**

**Level 1, low**



**Full-depth avalanches**

Individual mostly small full-depth avalanches and snow slides are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 8.1.2018, 17:00

### Snowpack

In the southern regions exposed to heavier precipitation, the fresh snow was transported in large quantities at elevated altitudes by the strong southerly wind. Large snow drift accumulations formed here; small to medium-sized snow drift accumulations formed in the other regions. Medium-sized and large natural avalanches occurred in the Visp valleys already on Monday. As a consequence of the heavy snowfall during Monday night, the avalanche danger will increase further, in particular in the regions of southern Upper Valais exposed to heavier precipitation. An increasing number of large natural avalanches are to be expected. In the south the snowpack has been weakened by the rain below approximately 2000 m.

In particular in central Grisons, Engadine and the Grisons southern valleys, and to some extent in southern Valais and Ticino as well, avalanches can be released in weak near-ground layers of the snowpack. In the other regions, fractures are no longer likely to occur in near-ground layers. Gliding avalanches can still occur in the north.

### Observed weather on Monday, 08.01.2018

On the main Alpine ridge and to the south, the weather was very cloudy. Snow fell in southern Valais and western Ticino; the snowfall was especially heavy from the Monte Rosa region to the Simplon region. The snowfall level was between 1500 and 1800 m. In the north the foehn wind gave rise to some bright spells; there were frequent sunny spells in the east.

#### Fresh snow

From Sunday evening until Monday evening above approximately 2000 m:

- Main Alpine ridge in Upper Valais from the Monte Rosa region to the Simplon region, Val Bedretto: 40 to 70 cm
- Other regions of the main Alpine ridge in Valais, Lower Visp valleys, Upper Valle Maggia: 20 to 40 cm
- Central Valais excluding the Visp valleys, rest of northern Ticino, central Ticino: 5 to 20 cm
- Other regions: a few centimetres or no fresh snow

From the start of the precipitation on Saturday until Monday evening, the following aggregate amounts of snow fell:

- Main Alpine ridge in Upper Valais from the Monte Rosa region to the Simplon region, Val Bedretto: 60 to 90 cm
- Lower Visp valleys, Goms, southern Urseren, Upper Valle Maggia: 30 to 60 cm
- Remaining parts of southern Lower Valais, of northern Upper Valais and of Ticino: 15 to 30 cm
- Other regions: a few centimetres or no fresh snow

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about +4 °C in the north and about -1 °C in the south

#### Wind

Moderate to strong, in the high Alpine regions storm force at times from the southeast

## Weather forecast through Tuesday, 09.01.2018

In the south the precipitation will persist; it will be very heavy and abundant during the night in particular. Snow will fall in the eastern regions on the southern flank of the Alps as well. The snowfall level will drop to 800 m in the south. The north will be frequently cloudy with light snowfall above approximately 1200 m. In the east the foehn wind will persist in the morning and give rise to bright spells.

### Fresh snow

From Monday evening until Tuesday evening above approximately 1800 m:

- Main Alpine ridge in Upper Valais from the Monte Rosa region to the Simplon region, Lower Visp valleys: 70 to 120 cm
- Rest of the main Alpine ridge from the Great St Bernhard Pass to the Gotthard region, Ticino: 40 to 70 cm
- Central Valais, Aletsch region, main Alpine ridge from Rheinwald to the Bernina region and to the south: 20 to 50 cm
- Other regions: 5 to 20 cm

### Temperature

Falling; at midday at 2000 m: about 0° C

### Wind

- During the night: At elevated altitudes strong to storm force from the southeast, occasionally strong southerly wind in the valleys exposed to the foehn
- During the day: Veering from southeasterly to southwesterly, remaining moderate to strong

## Outlook through Thursday, 11.01.2018

### Wednesday

In the south a little more snow will fall above approximately 900 m in the morning; as the day progresses, the weather will become increasingly bright. The danger of natural avalanches will decrease. For snow sport participants venturing off piste, the situation remains critical.

In the north there will be variable cloud with light snowfall and sunny intervals. The avalanche danger will decrease.

### Thursday

There will be variable cloud and, above approximately 800 m in the north, the possibility of occasional light snowfall. The avalanche danger will decrease.