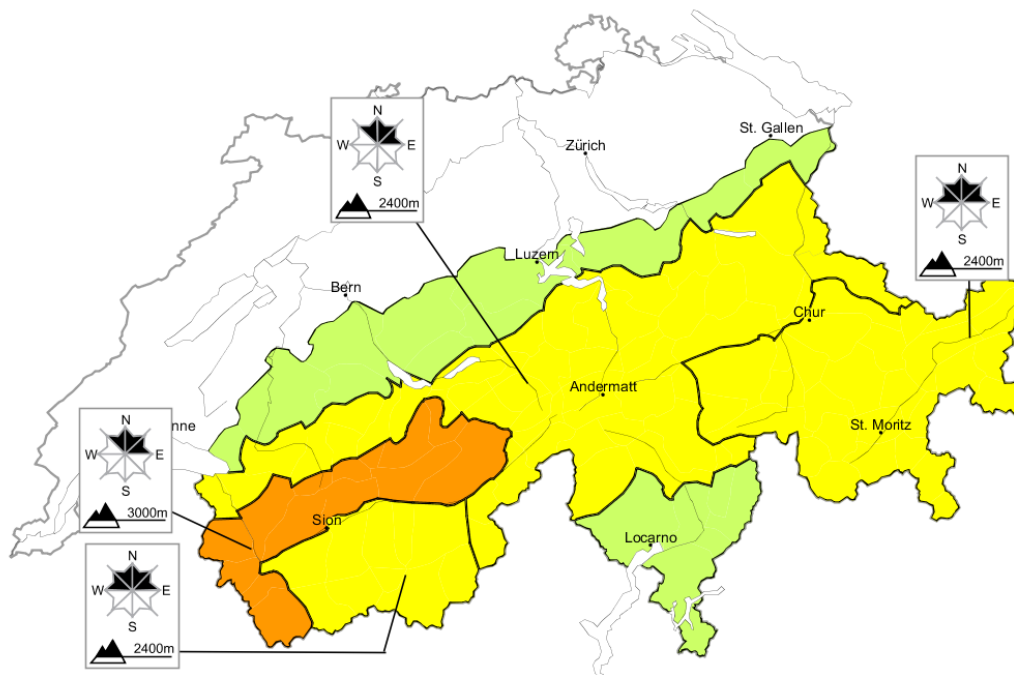


Significant increase in avalanche danger as the day progresses. High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 14.4.2013, 17:00 / Next update: 15.4.2013, 17:00

Dry avalanches

updated on 14.4.2013, 17:00



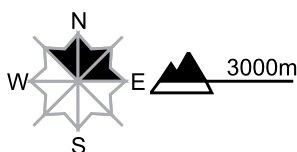
Dry, Region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of last week represent the main danger. The near-surface layers of the snowpack can be released by a single winter sport participant in some places. Dry avalanches can in some cases reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

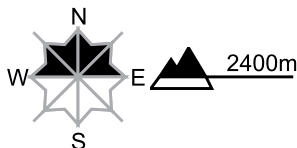
Dry, Region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Dry avalanches can in some cases be released in deep layers and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye.

The snow drift accumulations of last week are prone to triggering in particular on very steep shady slopes in high Alpine regions. They are to be bypassed. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

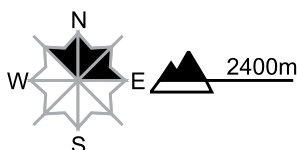
Dry, Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

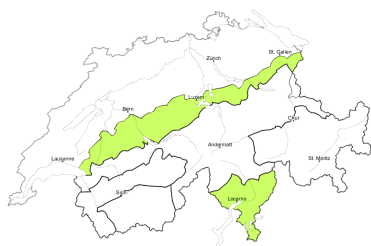
The snow drift accumulations of last week are in some cases still prone to triggering at elevated altitudes.

They are to be bypassed as far as possible. Mostly the avalanches are rather small. In high Alpine regions the avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and larger. Here the danger is higher.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, Region D

Level 1, low



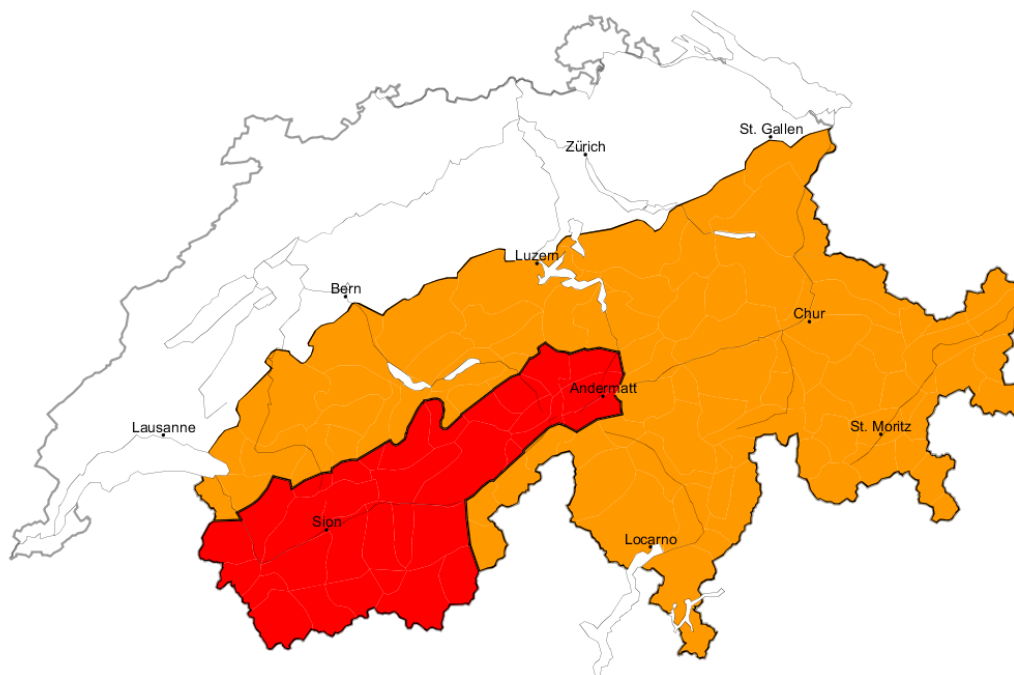
Favourable situation

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found especially in extremely steep terrain, in particular at elevated altitudes. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 14.4.2013, 17:00



Wet, Region A

Level 4, high



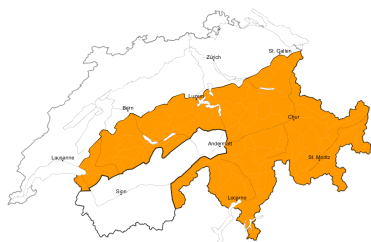
Wet avalanches as day progresses

In the afternoon as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation there will be an increase in the danger of wet and full-depth avalanches to level 4 (high). Numerous full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, including large ones in isolated cases. This applies on south facing slopes below approximately 3000 m and on north facing slopes below approximately 2500 m. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be started very early and concluded timely. Transportation routes situated at higher altitudes in particular are endangered, especially from the middle of the day.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Wet, Region B

Level 3, considerable



Wet avalanches as day progresses

As the day progresses as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation there will be a rapid increase in the danger of wet and full-depth avalanches to level 3 (considerable). Numerous full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, in particular medium-sized ones. This applies on south facing slopes below approximately 3000 m and on north facing slopes below approximately 2500 m. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be started very early and concluded timely. Transportation routes situated at higher altitudes in particular are endangered in some cases, especially from the middle of the day.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

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 14.4.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

Higher temperatures and solar radiation have brought about a weakening of the snow cover. Numerous small and medium sized wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides have been released. North facing slopes are isothermal and moist below about 2200 m, south facing slopes below about 2800 m.

On Sunday night amidst predominantly clear skies the snowpack surface will freeze. Early Monday morning the snowpack surface will be frozen and capable of bearing loads up as far as approximately 3000 m on east, south and west facing slopes. Then as a result of daytime warming, together with the solar radiation, the snow cover will once again forfeit its stability as early as the late morning hours.

The intermediate and more deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover are favourably structured for the most part north of a line drawn from Rhone to Rhine as well as in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps. In southern Valais and in the remaining regions of Grisons there are weak, faceted layers evident within the old snow cover. In those regions in particular, both wet and dry avalanches can be triggered down to near-ground level layers of the snowpack and attain medium size.

North of a line drawn from Rhone to Rhine and in western Lower Valais, the snow lines on north facing slopes are at 1000 to 1200 m, in the remaining regions at 1400 to 1600 m. On south facing slopes the snow lines are approximately 400 m higher.

Observed weather on Sunday, 14.4.2013

Last night in western regions, skies were predominantly clear, elsewhere intermittently overcast. During the day today it was sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in western regions +8° C and in eastern regions +6° C

Wind

Moderate westerly winds last night, during the day today predominantly light winds

Weather forecast until Monday, 15.4.2013

On Monday, following a night of clear skies, sunny. During the afternoon, high altitude clouds will move in.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

It is very warm. The zero-degree level lies at approximately 3400 m.

Wind

Predominantly light

Outlook until Wednesday, 17.4.2013

On Tuesday in northern regions it will be only partly sunny, elsewhere exceedingly so. On Wednesday it will be sunny. The zero-degree level will be at approximately 3000 m. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to diminish. The major peril stems from wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides. Following nights with clear skies, the avalanche situation in the early morning tends to be generally favourable. During the course of the day, numerous naturally triggered wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides have to be expected, including large-sized ones in isolated cases.