Avalanche bulletin until Friday, 26 April 2013

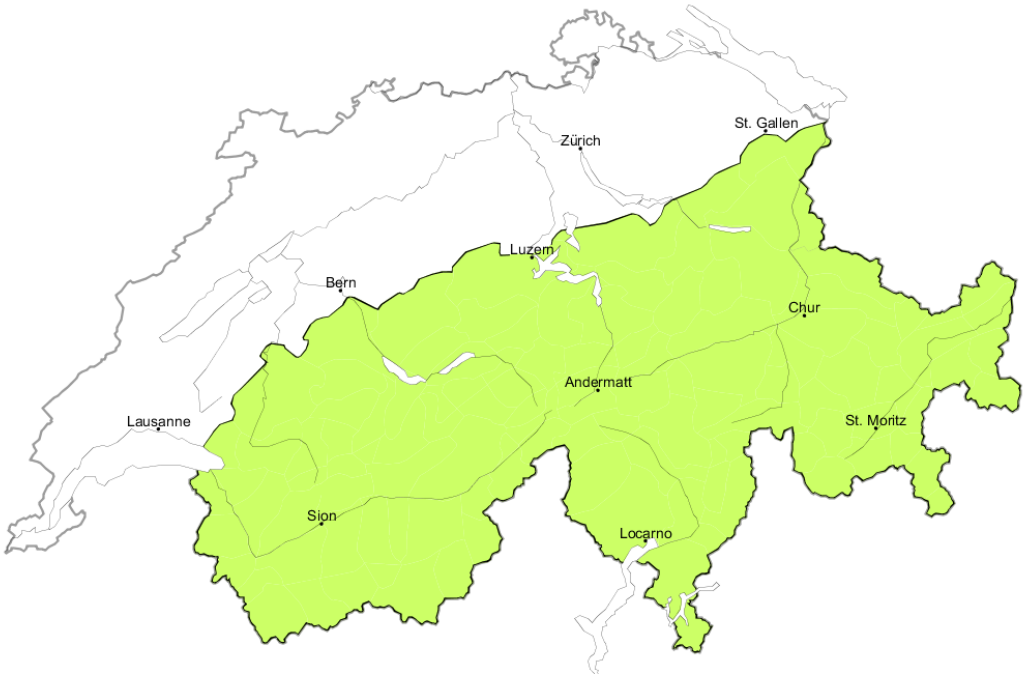
25.4.2013, 17:00

In the early morning a favourable avalanche situation will prevail. Increase in danger of wet and full-depth avalanches as the day progresses

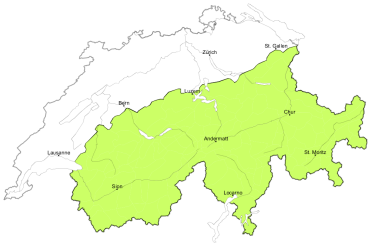
Edition: 25.4.2013, 17:00 / Next update: 26.4.2013, 17:00

Dry avalanches

updated on 25.4.2013, 17:00



Dry | **Level 1, low**



Old snow, snow drifts

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found especially on extremely steep north facing slopes. In the afternoon small snow drift accumulations will form, especially in high Alpine regions. These are prone to triggering. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

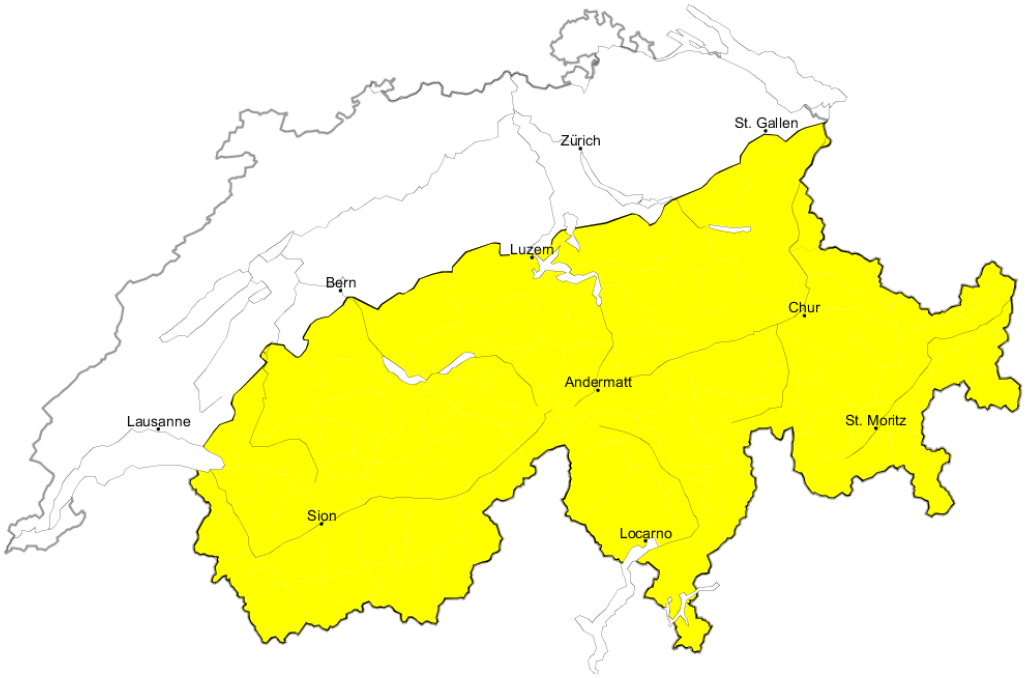
Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 consider. 4 high 5 very high

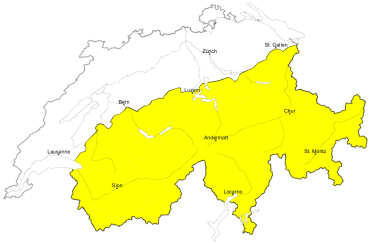
WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF
www.slf.ch

Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 25.4.2013, 17:00



Wet — Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches as day progresses

As the day progresses 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. Small to medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. This applies on east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 3200 m and on north facing slopes below approximately 2600 m. They can occur in particular in starting zones where previous releases have taken place. Backcountry tours should be started early and concluded timely.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 25.4.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

During the night a crust capable of bearing loads will form on the snowpack surface. On north facing slopes at higher altitudes and in high alpine regions the crust will be brittle, elsewhere it will carry weight. During the day tomorrow the crust will soften up rapidly. At lower altitudes the snow cover on north facing slopes is moist up to altitudes of about 2600 m, in other aspects up to over 3000 m. In southern Valais and in Grisons, more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack are to some extent faceted and weakly bonded. In those places more than anywhere else, avalanches can fracture all the way down to near-ground level layers of the snowpack and reach medium size.

Observed weather on Thursday, 25.4.2013

Following a night of clear skies it was sunny during the day today.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +8° C

Wind

Light, intermittently moderate strength southwesterly winds

Weather forecast until Friday, 26.4.2013

Skies will be clear on Thursday night. During the morning on Friday, cloud will move in from the southwest. In northern and eastern regions it will be partly sunny during the day, in southern regions heavily overcast to an increasing degree. During the afternoon in western and southern regions, some precipitation is anticipated.

Fresh snow

In southern Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps above approximately 2500 m, a few centimeters of snowfall is expected during the afternoon. Elsewhere it will remain predominantly dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +7° C

Wind

During the course of the day, wind velocity will increase: in the afternoon to moderate strength, in high alpine regions reaching strong velocity, from the southwest.

Outlook until Sunday, 28.4.2013

On Saturday, it will be heavily overcast in general. Above approximately 2000 m snowfall is anticipated which in southern regions will be intensive. On Sunday in northern and eastern regions there will be intermittent bright intervals, elsewhere skies will be heavily overcast in general. The precipitation is expected to slacken off. By Sunday evening on the Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn into the Bernina region and southwards therefrom above approximately 2500 m, massive amounts of fresh fallen snow are expected. In the regions where precipitation has been heaviest more than anywhere else, the danger of dry avalanches will increase significantly. At altitudes below about 2200 m, wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides continue to be possible.