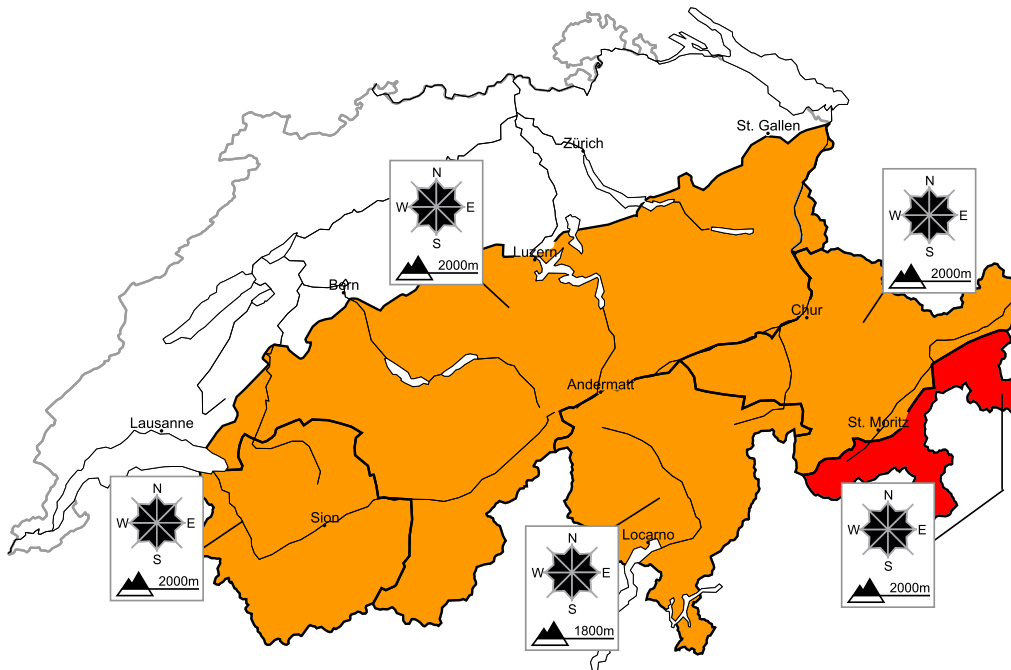


A critical avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area

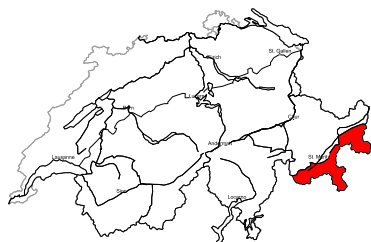
Edition: 5.1.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 5.1.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 5.1.2014, 08:00

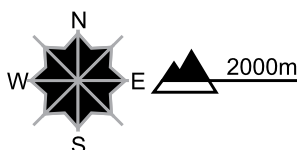


Region A **Level 4, high**



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Outside marked and open pistes a very critical avalanche situation will prevail. As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind sometimes large snow drift accumulations have formed. Natural avalanches are to be expected, in particular medium-sized ones. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases. Lower Engadine, Val Müstair: Avalanches can penetrate down to the ground.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

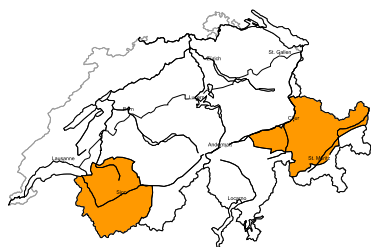
4 high

5 very high



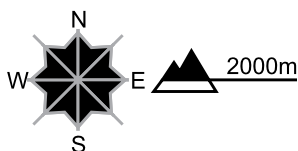
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. These are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can over a wide area be released very easily. They can penetrate down to the ground and reach a dangerous size. Natural avalanches are possible. The conditions are precarious for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

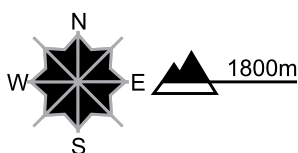
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

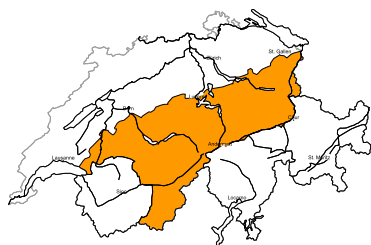


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind sometimes large snow drift accumulations will form. Avalanches can be released easily or triggered naturally. The conditions are precarious for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

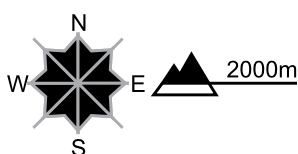
Region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind sometimes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. In isolated cases avalanches can also be released in deep layers and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on shady slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.1.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

On the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in Grisons, the more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack are for the most part weak and faceted. Avalanches which sweep away nearly the entire snowpack occur most frequently in southern Lower Valais, in parts of northern and central Grisons and in the Lower Engadine. In Ticino the snow cover is favourably structured by and large. Fractures in more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack are unlikely. Snowdrift accumulations were brought about by the southwesterly winds on Saturday. On Sunday, they will be created by northerly winds. They are prone to triggering.

Observed weather on Saturday, 4.1.2014

Skies were heavily overcast. There was snowfall in western and southern regions.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level in western and northern regions was 1800 to 2000 m, in southern regions below 1000 m. Between Friday midday and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- southern flank of the Alps and Upper Engadine above approximately 1000 m, 10 to 20 cm
- Chablais and Lower Valais above 2000 m, 10 to 20 cm
- elsewhere above 2000 m, just a few centimeters

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in northern regions, 1 °C and in southern regions, -3 °C

Wind

Light to moderate velocity westerly winds during the night tonight, tomorrow during the day moderate to strong southerly winds in eastern and foehn-exposed regions in particular.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 5.1.2014

In western regions the snowfall will taper off over the course of the morning; during the afternoon there will be bright spells. In eastern regions the snowfall will continue into the afternoon. In southern regions it will slacken off over the course of the day as northern winds intensify.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level will drop to below 1000 m over widespread areas. Above 1500 m, the following amounts of new fallen snow are anticipated:

- Gotthard region, Grisons and Ticino, 20 to 40 cm; from Bergell over the Bernina region into Val Poschiavo, as much as 50 cm
- remaining regions, 15 to 30 cm

Temperature

At midday in northern regions, -5 °C and in southern regions, -2 °C

Wind

Tonight in eastern and high alpine regions, moderate to strong southwesterly winds; during the day tomorrow, weak to moderate, at high altitudes in Grisons and in Ticino intermittently strong velocity northerly winds

Outlook through Tuesday, 7.1.2014

Apart from some cloudbanks in northern regions it will be quite sunny on both days, and predominantly dry. Temperatures will rise noticeably. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to decrease incrementally. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, conditions on Monday in particular will remain critical in some regions. Moist avalanches are possible on intensely sun-drenched slopes.