Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 7 January 2014

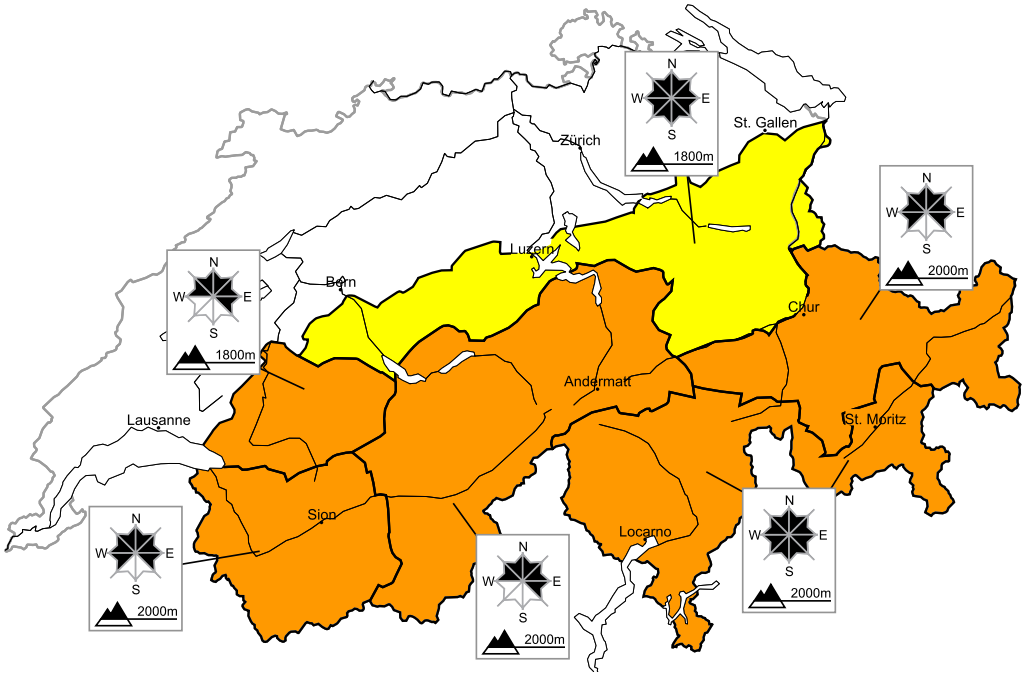
7.1.2014, 07:50

A critical avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 7.1.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 7.1.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

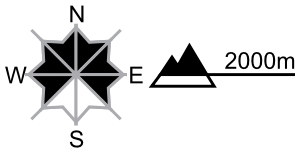
updated on 7.1.2014, 08:00



Region A — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The old snow drift accumulations are in some cases still prone to triggering. Distinct weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack in particular on shady slopes.
Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. Remote triggering is possible. The avalanches can penetrate down to the ground and reach a dangerous size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. The conditions are precarious for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes. Defensive route selection is required.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2200 m mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are possible.

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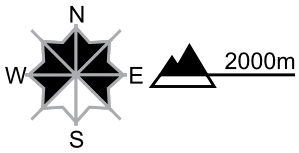
Region B — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



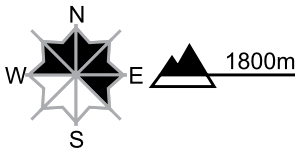
Danger description

The old snow drift accumulations are in some cases still prone to triggering. Distinct weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack in particular on shady slopes.
Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. Remote triggering is possible. The avalanches can penetrate down to the ground and reach a dangerous size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. The conditions are precarious for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes. Defensive route selection is required.

Region C — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The mostly small snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. In some places avalanches can also be released in deep layers and reach dangerously large 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.

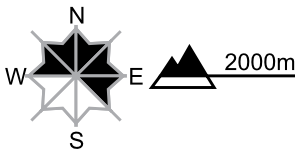
Wet and full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2200 m mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are possible.

Region D — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The mostly small snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. In some places avalanches can also be released in deep layers and reach dangerously large 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.

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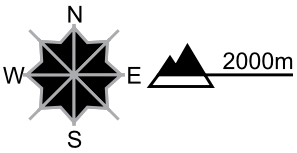
Region E — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

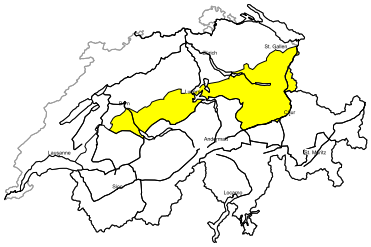
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

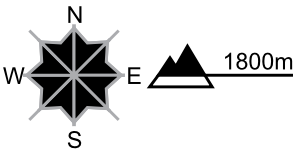
The old snow drift accumulations are in some cases still prone to triggering. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

Region F — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The mostly small snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. In isolated cases avalanches can also be released in deep layers and reach medium size. Careful route selection is required.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 6.1.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

On the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais and Grisons, the deeper layers of the snowpack are mostly faceted and weak. The covering layers are mostly well bonded, but in some places the bonding of the near-surface layers remains weak. In southern Lower Valais, northern and central Grisons, Lower Engadine and Val Müstair in particular, avalanches can be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack and in some cases release almost the entire snowpack and reach a dangerously large size.
On the southern flank of the Alps excluding Val Müstair, the bonding of the snowpack is mostly favourable. Here, fractures can still occur in the near-surface layers of the snowpack in particular.

Observed weather on Monday, 6.1.2014

The weather was mostly sunny on the northern flank of the Alps and in Ticino and Grisons, and partly sunny in Valais.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: +5 °C in the north and 0 °C in the south

Wind

On the northern flank of the Alps the wind remained moderate to strong in the morning before easing gradually as the day progressed. In the remaining regions the wind was light to moderate.

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 7.1.2014

It will be partly sunny in the west and mostly sunny in the south and east.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

Very mild for the time of year; at midday at 2000 m: between +4 °C in the north and +1 °C in the south

Wind

Moderate to strong southwesterly

Outlook through Thursday, 9.1.2014

Each of the next two days will be quite sunny, but it will become increasingly cloudy from the west on Thursday afternoon. The avalanche danger will decrease, but only very slowly in Lower Valais and Grisons in particular.