Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 22 January 2014

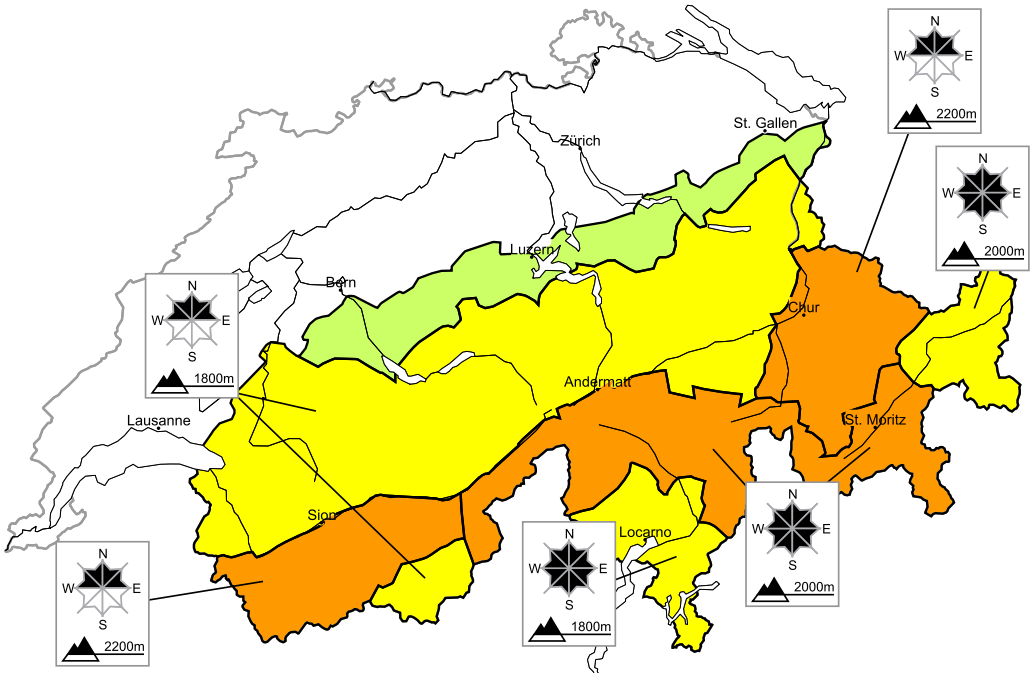
22.1.2014, 07:45

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 22.1.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 22.1.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

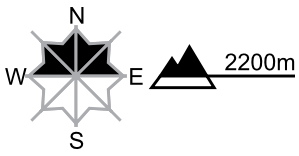
updated on 22.1.2014, 08:00



Region A — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in deep layers, especially on very steep north facing slopes. These avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise.
Northern and central Grisons: The fresh snow drift accumulations of Tuesday can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. The avalanche prone locations are to be found especially adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. This applies in all aspects. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

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

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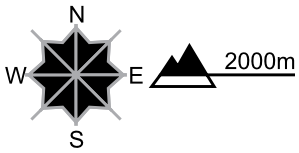
Region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

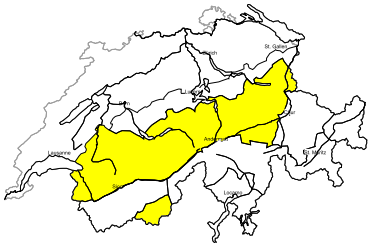
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

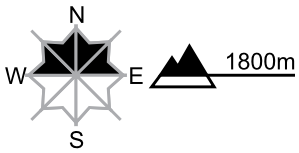
As a consequence of the northerly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Region C — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



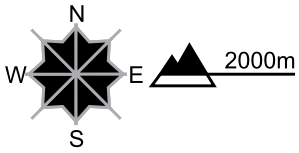
Danger description

The older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. These are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanche prone locations are to be found also adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. This applies in all aspects. Careful route selection is required.

Region D — Level 2, moderate

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

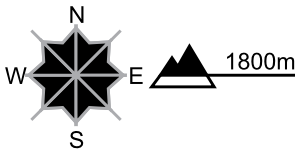
Weak layers in the lower part of the snowpack can be released in isolated cases and mostly by large additional loads especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, especially on very steep north facing slopes.

The mostly small snow drift accumulations of Tuesday can still be released in some cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Region E — Level 2, moderate

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the northerly wind sometimes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. They are to be bypassed as far as possible. Careful route selection is required.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

On very steep slopes small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are possible below approximately 1800 m.

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Region F

Level 1, low

Favourable situation

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on extremely steep slopes. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.1.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

On the southern flank of the Alps and in Upper Engadine, where the snow cover is around fifty percent deeper than usual at this time of year, the bonding of the snowpack is largely favourable. Here, the snowpack is moist or wet at intermediate and low altitudes. At high altitudes, near-surface layers of the snowpack in particular are prone to triggering in these regions.
The bonding of the snowpack is most unfavourable in central Valais, southern Lower Valais, northern and central Grisons, Lower Engadine and Val Müstair. Here, avalanches can penetrate even near-ground layers on steep north facing slopes in particular, or they can be released in deep faceted layers. In such cases, the avalanches can reach a dangerously large size. The danger can be indicated by whumpfing sounds.
In the other regions, avalanches are unlikely to be released in deep layers of the snowpack.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 21.1.2014

On the southern flank of the Alps and in Upper Engadine and the high alpine regions, it was mostly sunny, but it remained overcast elsewhere. The light snowfall in the north ceased. In the south, a moderate to strong northerly foehn wind transported the still loosely bonded snow.

Fresh snow
Above approximately 1000 m, 5 to 15 cm of snow fell over a wide area in the period from Monday afternoon until the precipitation ceased on Tuesday afternoon.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: between -6 °C in the west and -1 °C in the south

Wind
As a general rule, the wind was light to moderate from the north. A moderate to strong northerly foehn wind prevailed on the southern flank of the Alps.

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 22.1.2014

In the north there will be low stratus cloud cover with an upper limit of approximately 1200 m, but it will disperse in western parts in the afternoon. Above the low stratus and in the other regions, it will be fairly sunny. In the west, cloud will increase towards the evening.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: -3 °C in the west and south and -1 °C in the north

Wind
Light southwesterly

Outlook through Friday, 24.1.2014

On Thursday it will be very cloudy, and a little snow will fall over a wide area even at altitudes below 1000 m. On Friday the light snowfall will persist in the north, but the weather will become increasingly sunny in the south. The wind will be mostly light to moderate from the west. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.