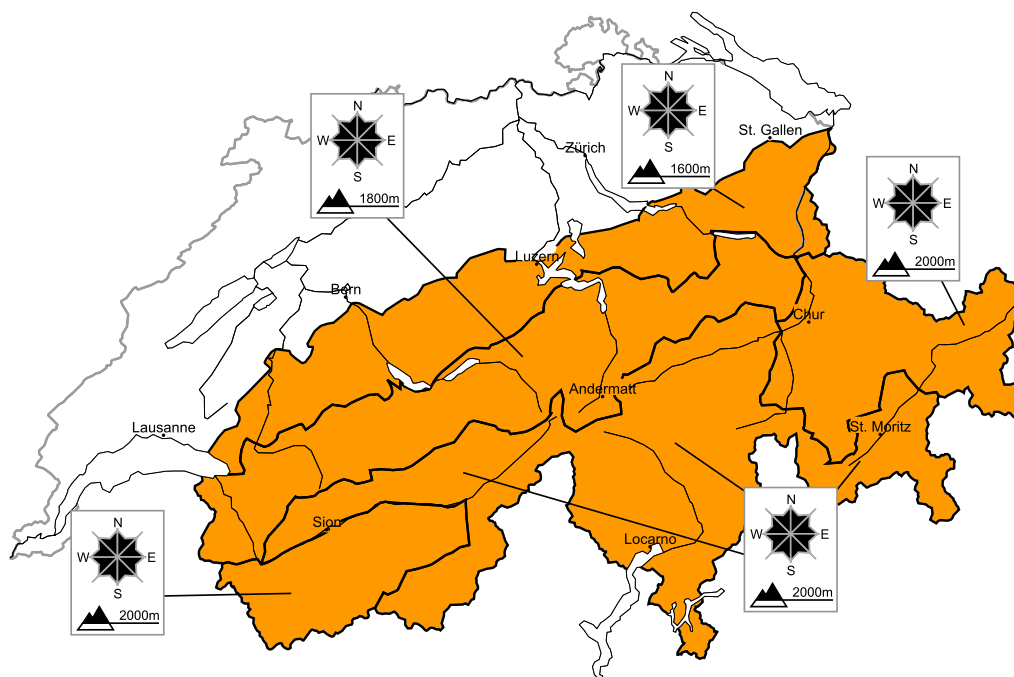


As a consequence of stormy weather a very precarious avalanche situation will prevail

Edition: 26.1.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 26.1.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 26.1.2014, 08:00



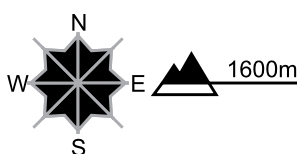
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

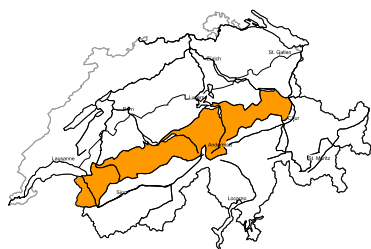


Danger description

The storm force wind has transported the fresh and old snow. In particular in areas not adjacent to the ridge line easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Mostly small natural avalanches are possible. Off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

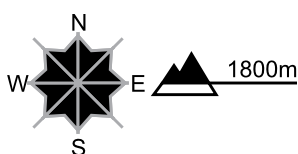
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The storm force wind has transported the fresh and old snow. In particular in areas not adjacent to the ridge line easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Small to medium-sized natural avalanches are possible. Off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

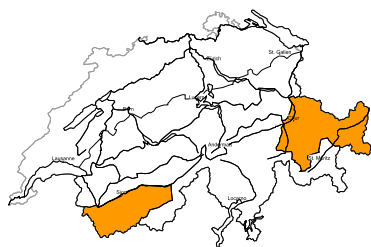
5 very high



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 www.slf.ch

Region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

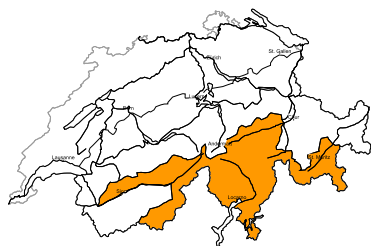
The storm force wind has transported the fresh and old snow. In particular in areas not adjacent to the ridge line easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Natural avalanches are possible.

Additionally avalanches can penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. This applies especially on very steep north facing slopes.

Off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

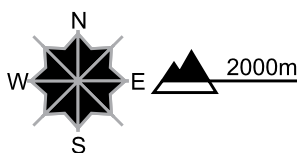
Region D

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The storm force wind has transported the fresh and old snow. In particular in areas not adjacent to the ridge line easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Small to medium-sized natural avalanches are possible. Off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 25.1.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

On the southern flank of the Alps and in the Upper Engadine the snowpack is favourably layered. The snow layering is least favourable in central Valais, in southern Lower Valais, in northern and central Grisons, in the Lower Engadine and in Val Müstair. In those regions, particularly on very steep north facing slopes, avalanches can sometimes fracture down to the lowermost layers or trigger in the deeply embedded, faceted layers of the snowpack. These avalanche prone locations occur seldom, but possible avalanches can still attain dangerously large size. The uppermost, near-to-surface layers are predominantly loosely packed, in western and northern regions the surface hoar was blanketed by new fallen snow in many areas. Surface hoar has again formed on the snowpack surface in some regions.

Storm-strength winds will transport both fresh fallen snow and loosely packed old snow during the night on Saturday. Crests, summits and ridges will be utterly windblown until they are free of snow. In all aspects, bonded snowdrift accumulations are expected to form far distant from ridgelines, including down to altitudes in the vicinity of the treeline.

Observed weather on Saturday, 25.1.2014

It was predominantly sunny during the afternoon amidst high altitude cloudbanks.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in eastern regions and -2 °C in southern regions

Wind

In southern and western regions, there were intermittently moderate to strong northerly winds, elsewhere at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 26.1.2014

On Saturday night snowfall is expected to set in above approximately 600 m and storm-force northerly winds come up. On Sunday skies in northern regions will be heavily overcast to begin with, accompanied by light snowfall. During the course of the day skies will brighten up to an increasing degree. In the early morning hours in western and southern regions the atmosphere will rapidly clear up and it will become quite sunny. Towards evening cloud cover will move in from the west.

Fresh snow

In northern regions above approximately 1000 m, in southern regions above approximately 1500 m:

- central and eastern sectors of northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, Silvretta: 10 to 20 cm
- elsewhere widespread: 5 to 10 cm; in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri it will remain dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -8 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions

Wind

On Saturday evening, winds will intensify and be blowing at strong to storm-force velocity from westerly to northerly directions until Sunday morning. During the day the winds will taper off and be coming solely from the west. As a result of the storm, both fresh fallen snow and loosely packed layers of old snow which lie near to the uppermost surface will be transported.

Outlook through Tuesday, 28.1.2014

Monday

On Sunday night in northern and western regions in particular, snowfall is anticipated above approximately 600 m. During the day on Monday skies will be variably cloudy, accompanied by snow showers and bright intervals. In central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri it will be partly sunny. For skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, the situation will remain critical.

Tuesday

In northern regions skies will be variably cloudy; in southern regions, rather sunny. It will remain cold. The avalanche danger is expected to slowly decrease.