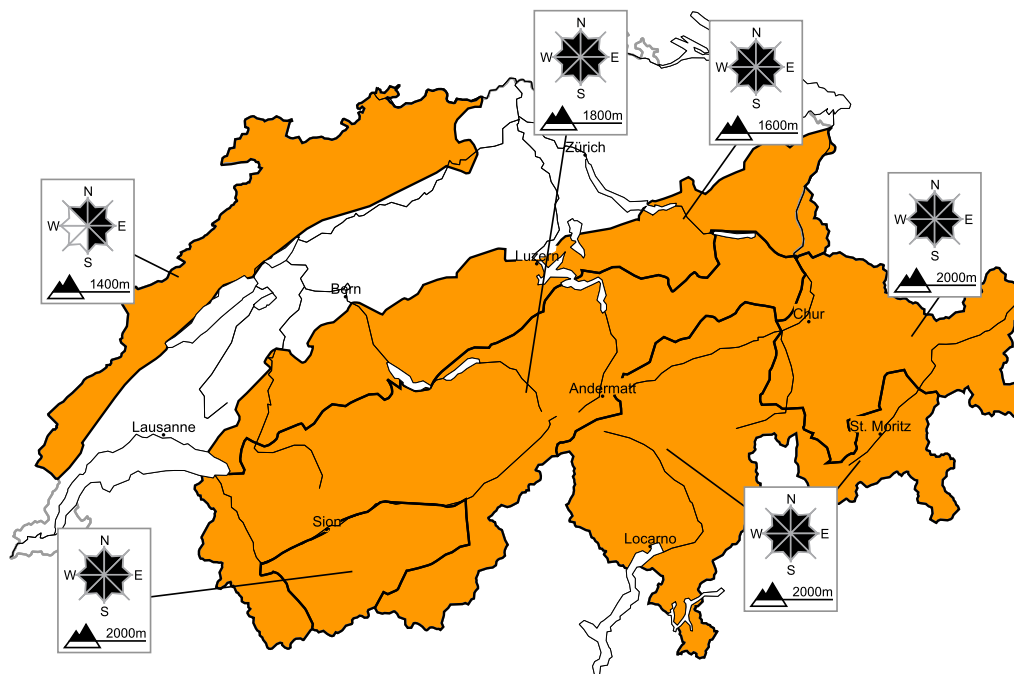


Considerable avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 27.1.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 27.1.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 27.1.2014, 08:00



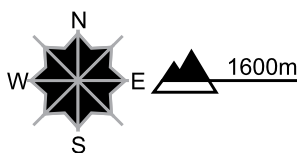
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

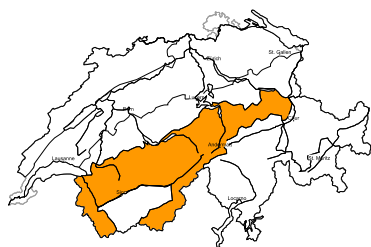


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind further snow drift accumulations have formed. They can be released easily. The snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. The avalanche prone locations are to be found also in areas close to the tree line. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

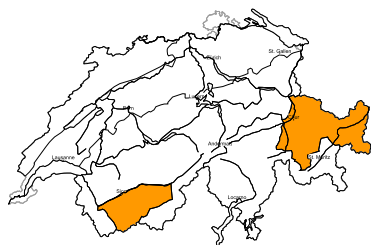


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind further snow drift accumulations have formed. They can be released easily. The snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. The avalanche prone locations are to be found also in areas close to the tree line. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Small to medium-sized natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

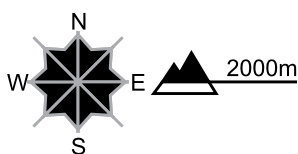
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind further snow drift accumulations have formed. They can be released easily. The snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Natural avalanches are possible, especially in Valais. All regions: Additionally avalanches can penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. This applies especially on very steep north facing slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

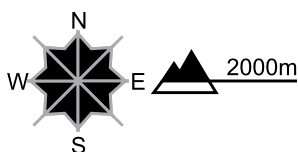
Region D

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

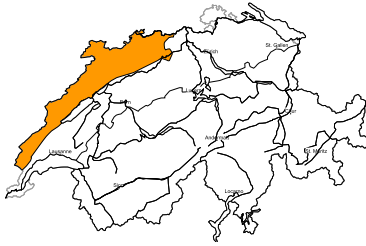


Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last two days represent the main danger. These avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

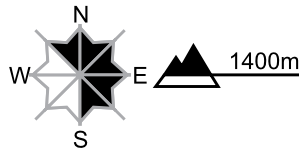
Region E

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations





Danger description

The avalanche-prone snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Mostly these are small. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.


Danger levels

 1 low

 2 moderate

 3 consider.

 4 high

 5 very high



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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 26.1.2014, 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.

As a result of storm-force winds, trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations formed in all regions of the Swiss Alps on Sunday, also in areas far distant from ridgelines, including in zones in the vicinity of the treeline. Strong westerly winds will transport the new fallen snow on Sunday night and new snowdrift accumulations will continue to form. Subsequently the new fallen snow will blanket the avalanche prone locations.

Observed weather on Sunday, 26.1.2014

Following a night of storm-strength winds, skies were generally overcast on Sunday. In northern and eastern regions there was snowfall during the morning in particular, in the afternoon skies brightened up. In western regions snowfall set in once again during the afternoon. In central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri it was predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday and Sunday evening above approximately 1000 m:

- central and eastern sectors of northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, Lower Engadine, Val Müstair: 15 to 25 cm
- Jura, western sector of northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, northern Ticino, central Grisons: 5 to 10 cm
- elsewhere, just a few centimeters

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m between -9 °C in northern regions and -6 °C in southern regions

Wind

On Saturday night and throughout Sunday morning, strong to storm-strength western to northerly winds, during the day on Sunday at moderate to strong velocity

Weather forecast through Monday, 27.1.2014

On Sunday night in northern and western regions in particular, snowfall is anticipated. The snowfall level in western regions will be at 1200 m to begin with, elsewhere at 400 m. During the day on Monday the snowfall will slacken off from the west and skies will brighten up increasingly, in southern regions in particular.

Fresh snow

Above approximately 1400 m:

- northern flank of the Alps, furthestmost western Lower Valais, northern Valais: 20 to 30 cm
- Jura, remaining Valais, northern Ticino, Val Poschiavo, Silvretta, Samnaun: 10 to 20 cm
- remaining regions: 5 to 10 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -9 °C in northern regions and -7 °C in southern regions

Wind

On Sunday night on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in the Jura, strong (elsewhere moderate velocity) westerly winds will prevail. During the day on Monday winds will slacken off and be blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly to northwesterly directions.

Outlook through Wednesday, 29.1.2014

Tuesday

In northern regions skies will be variably cloudy. In the Valais and southern regions it will be rather sunny. The avalanche danger is expected to gradually diminish.

Wednesday

In western and southern regions skies will be heavily overcast in general, accompanied by light snowfall in southern regions. In eastern regions skies will be partly sunny, due to foehn influence. The avalanche danger may increase somewhat in the foehn-exposed regions of the north.