Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 30 January 2014

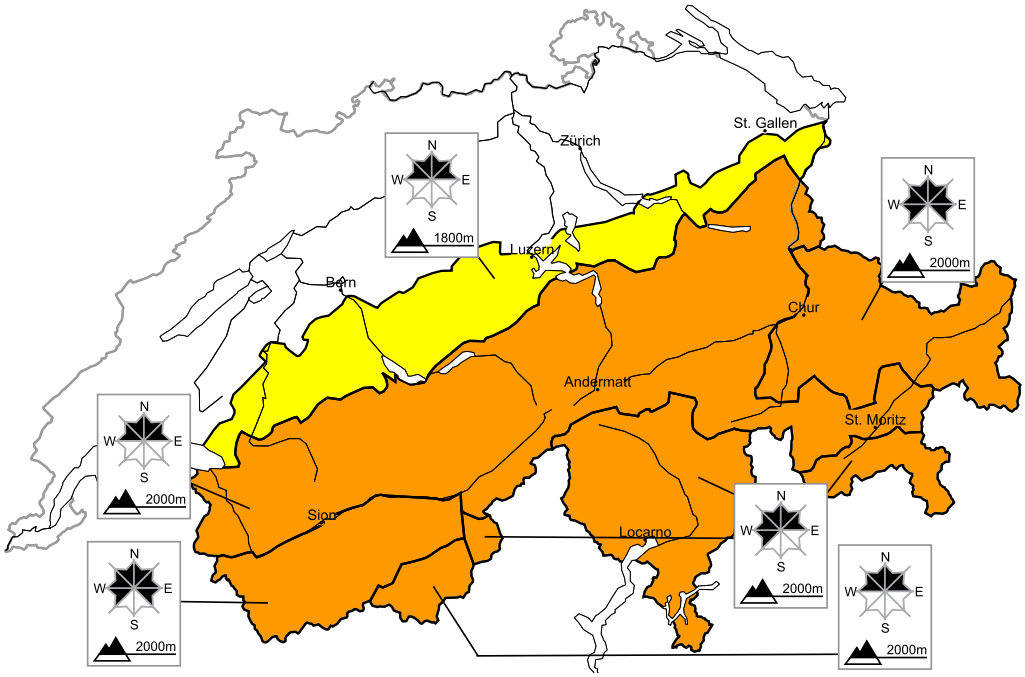
30.1.2014, 07:44

In the south snowfall. Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 30.1.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 30.1.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

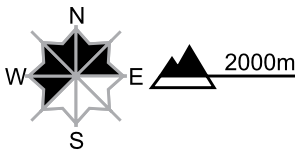
updated on 30.1.2014, 08:00



Region A — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In the afternoon as a consequence of the snowfall there will be an increase in the avalanche danger to level 3 (considerable). The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations will become increasingly prone to triggering. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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

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

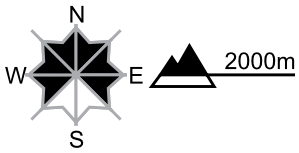
Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 30 January 2014

30.1.2014, 07:44

Region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



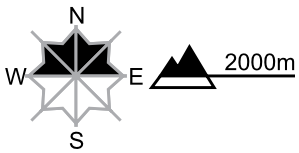
Danger description

As a consequence of the southerly wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations will form. This applies in particular adjacent to the ridge line as well as in high Alpine regions. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released easily. They are to be bypassed in steep terrain.
Additionally in some places avalanches can be released in the old snowpack. They can in isolated cases penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on very steep north facing slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Region C — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



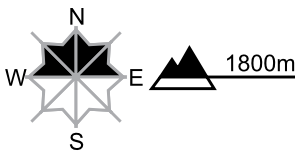
Danger description

The near-surface layers of the snowpack can be released by a single winter sport participant in some places in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example.
As a consequence of the southerly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. This applies in particular adjacent to the ridge line as well as in high Alpine regions. The fresh snow drift accumulations are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. They are to be bypassed in steep terrain.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Region D — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the foehn wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations have formed. These are mostly small but can be released easily. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed in steep terrain.
Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in near-surface layers. Caution is to be exercised at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Careful route selection is recommended.

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 29.1.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

On the southern flank of the Alps and in the Upper Engadine, the old snow cover is favourably layered. Least favourably layered is the snowpack in central Valais, in southern Lower Valais, in northern and central Grisons, in the Lower Engadine and in Val Müstair. Avalanches in those regions, particularly on very steep north facing slopes, can fracture and sweep away down to the layers nearest to the ground or in deeply embedded layers of faceted snow crystals. These avalanche prone locations occur only seldom, but possible avalanches can still reach dangerously large size.
The new fallen snow in southern regions and the snowdrift accumulations brought about by foehn winds in northern regions are being deposited on top of a predominantly loosely packed old snowpack surface and, from place to place, atop of surface hoar.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 29.1.2014

Following a night of clear skies it was predominantly overcast in western and southern regions during the day. From place to place there was a bit of snowfall. In northern regions it was partly sunny until midday.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions -5 °C, in southern regions -8 °C

Wind

Southerly winds were blowing at moderate strength during the day, at strong velocity from place to place, and transported the loosely packed old snow. In areas adjacent to ridgelines more than anywhere else, small-sized snowdrift accumulations formed which are prone to triggering.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 30.1.2014

Under the effects of a southerly barrier weather effect, snowfall down to low lying areas is anticipated in southern regions. In northern regions there will be foehn-induced bright intervals to begin with, subsequently skies will become increasingly overcast and a small amount of snowfall is expected.

Fresh snow

- Main Alpine Ridge from Zermatt into the Upper Engadine and south thereof: 20 to 40 cm
- immediately bordering regions to the north, central Grisons, Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm
- remaining regions: just a few centimeters of snowfall or it will stay dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions -4 °C, in southern regions -6 °C

Wind

Moderate southerly winds, reaching stronger velocities at high altitudes. In the Alpine valleys, moderate strength southerly foehn winds during the night in particular.

Outlook through Saturday, 1.2.2014

In southern regions the intense precipitation resulting from the barrier weather effects will persist over the course of both days. On Friday, heavy precipitation will spread over the peaks into the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps and throughout Grisons; in the northwesterly regions it will become rather sunny in the afternoon. On Saturday in northern regions, there will initially be bright spells brought about by foehn winds, then cloud will move in from the west and some snowfall is anticipated above 1000 to 1500 m. The avalanche danger is expected to increase in eastern and southern regions. In southern regions, danger level 4 - High - will probably be reached.