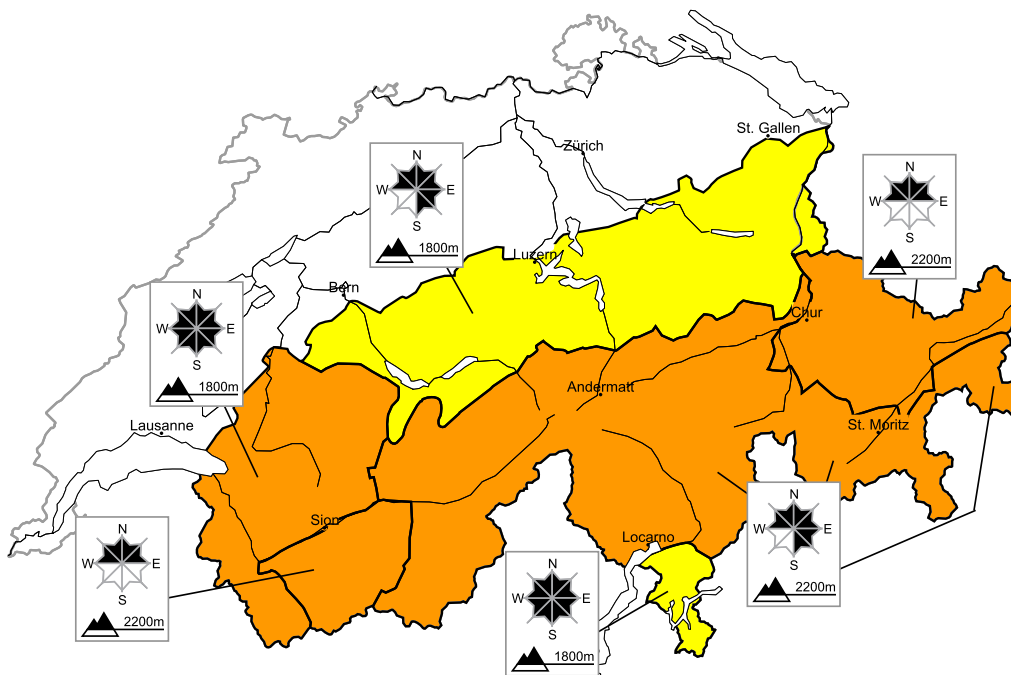


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Snow drifts require caution

Edition: 9.2.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 9.2.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 9.2.2014, 08:00



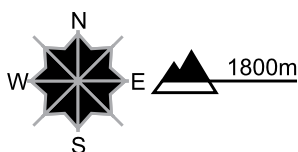
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



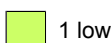
Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released easily, even by a single winter sport participant. Individual mostly small natural avalanches are possible, especially in the west. Whumphing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

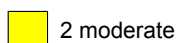
Old snow

Avalanches 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.

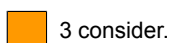
Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

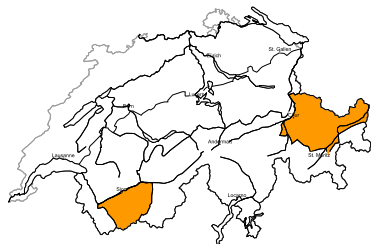


5 very high



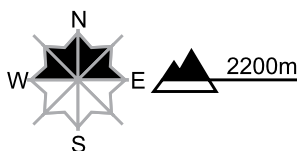
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

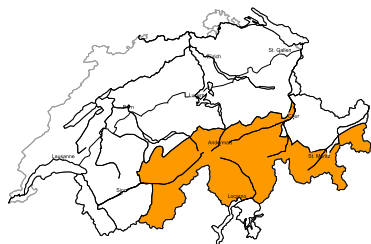
Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Old snow

Avalanches 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.

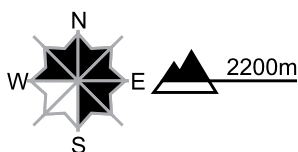
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

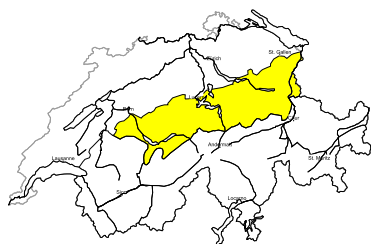
Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

Main Alpine Ridge and to the south: Below approximately 2000 m full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. This applies especially on very steep sunny slopes.

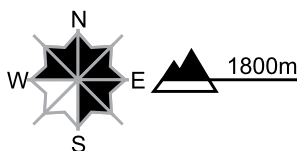
Region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

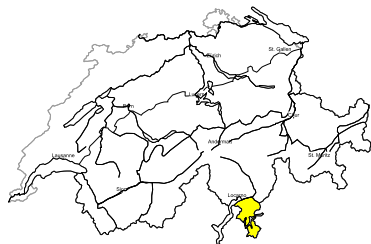


Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations are rather small but can be released easily. The older snow drift accumulations can be released, especially by large additional loads. These avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Meticulous route selection is important.

Region E

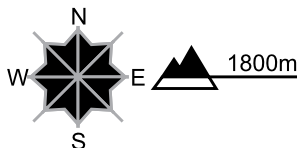
Level 2, moderate



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

Danger description



The fresh snow of the last few days is in some cases still prone to triggering. Fresh snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line. They are small. Careful route selection is recommended.

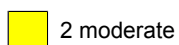
Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

Below approximately 2000 m full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. This applies especially on very steep sunny slopes.

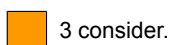
Danger levels



1 low



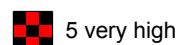
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



Snowpack and weather

updated on 8.2.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

At 2000 m altitude in northern regions, the snow is 80 to 120 cm deep widespread; on the southern flank of the Alps there is 200 to 300 cm of snow. Thus, there is more than twice the usual snow depth for this time of the season. More than anything else the uppermost, near-to-surface layers of snowdrift and the new fallen snow are prone to triggering in all regions of the Swiss Alps. The snow layering on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards thereof is predominantly favourable. On the northern flank of the Alps the snow layering is highly variable and intensely impacted by the successive phases of foehn wind. Least favourable of all is the snow layering in southern Lower Valais, in northern and central Grisons and in northern Lower Engadine, where avalanches on very steep, north facing slopes in particular can fracture down to the weakly bonded layers near the ground. These avalanche prone locations tend to occur seldom.

Observed weather on Saturday, 8.2.2014

On Friday night the snowfall came to an end, also in Grisons. During the morning on Saturday there were bright intervals in eastern and southern regions. Elsewhere skies were overcast. Snowfall recommenced from the west and in southern regions.

Fresh snow

Between Friday morning and Saturday morning the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered above 1300 m:

- western Jura, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, westernmost Lower Valais, Upper Engadine, Ticino, Val Moesa, Bergell, Val Poschiavo: 20 to 30 cm
- remaining parts of the western sector of northern flank of the Alps, of the Valais and Grisons: 10 to 20 cm widespread
- elsewhere, just a few centimeters

On Saturday afternoon in the furthestmost western regions and in southern regions, there was a small amount of snowfall.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions

Wind

Moderate to strong velocity southerly winds

Weather forecast through Sunday, 9.2.2014

In northern regions skies will be variably cloudy. Above approximately 700 m there will be intermittent snowfall in western regions in particular. In eastern regions there will be extended spells of bright skies. In southern regions it will be rather sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday evening above approximately 1000 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are anticipated:

- western Jura, western sector of northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm; in the furthestmost western regions as much as 30 cm
- remaining regions: 5 to 10 cm over widespread areas

Temperature

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

Wind

- in northern regions, strong velocity westerly winds
- in southern regions, light westerly winds; in high alpine regions at moderate and intermittently at strong velocity

Outlook through Tuesday, 11.2.2014

Monday

On Monday, strong foehn winds are anticipated accompanied by bright intervals in northern regions. In southern regions there will be snowfall. The avalanche danger is expected to increase in southern regions in particular.

Tuesday

On Tuesday skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by showers and bright intervals. The avalanche danger is expected to diminish incrementally.