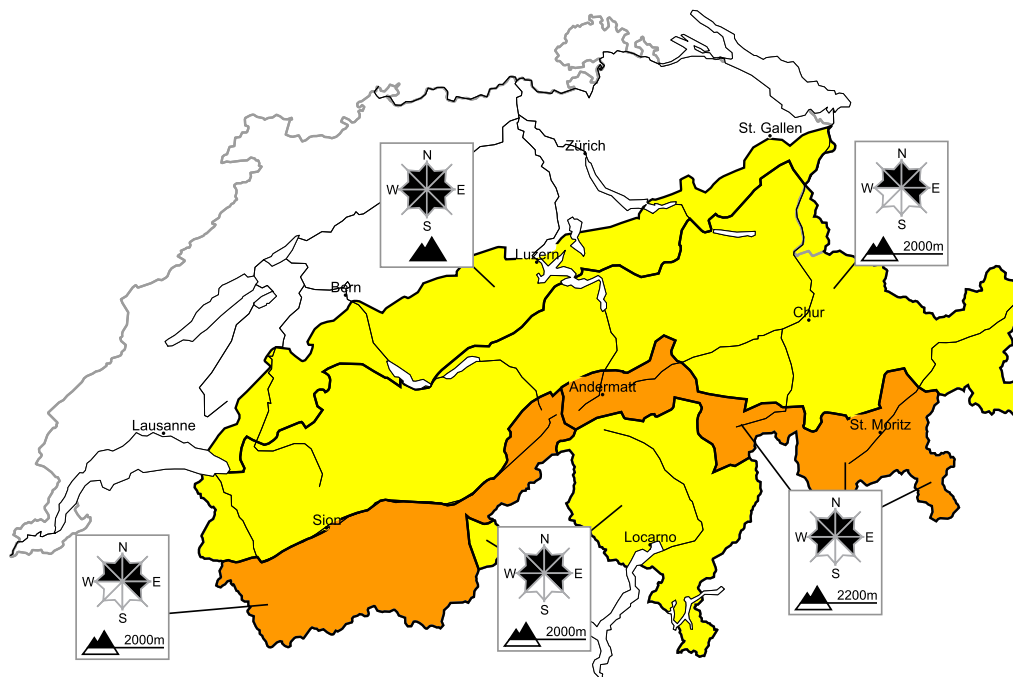


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 17.2.2014, 17:00 / Next update: 18.2.2014, 08:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 17.2.2014, 17:00



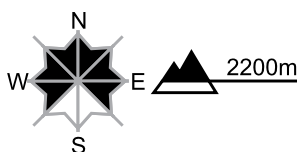
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



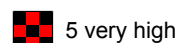
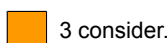
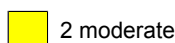
Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind further snow drift accumulations will form. These can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. Somewhat older snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. The inneralpine regions of Grisons: Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep, little used north facing slopes.

Full-depth avalanches

Main Alpine Ridge and to the south: Especially below approximately 2000 m full depth avalanches can be released naturally and reach a dangerous size.

Danger levels



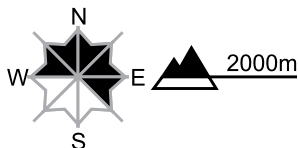
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

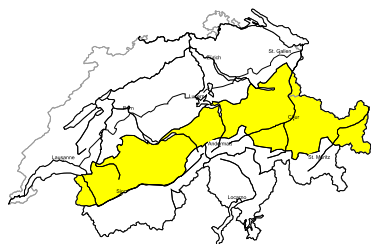
As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind further snow drift accumulations will form. These can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. Somewhat older snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Southern Valais: Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep, little used north facing slopes.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation mostly small wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m, in particular on very steep sunny slopes.

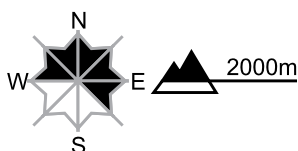
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



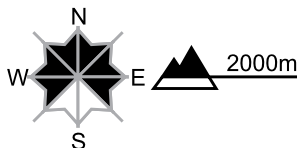
Danger description

As a consequence of the southwesterly wind small snow drift accumulations will form. These are easy to recognise and can in some cases be released easily. The snow drift accumulations of the weekend are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Defensive route selection is recommended.

The inneralpine regions of Grisons, Silvretta and Samnaun: Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep, little used north facing slopes.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

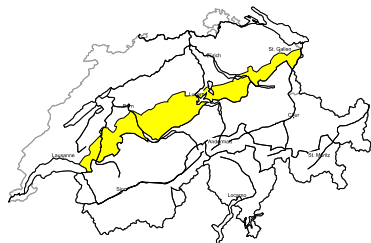
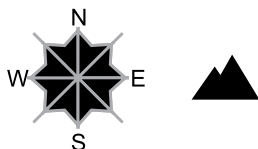
As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation mostly small wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m, in particular on very steep sunny slopes.

Region D**Level 2, moderate****Snow drifts****Avalanche prone locations****Danger description**

The somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released by people, but they will be small in most cases. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m full depth avalanches can be released naturally and reach a dangerous size.

Region E**Level 2, moderate****Wet avalanches as day progresses****Avalanche prone locations****Danger description**

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more frequent mostly small moist snow slides and avalanches are possible, especially on very steep slopes. Very steep slopes are to be bypassed as far as possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.2.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

In all regions, near-surface layers of the snowpack in particular are prone to triggering as avalanches in some cases. Sunday and Monday's fresh snow stabilised quickly as a consequence of exposure to radiation.

On Tuesday the southwesterly wind will give rise to mostly small snow drift accumulations in particular on the main Alpine ridge and generally at elevated altitudes. The significant warming in the north will cause the surface of the snowpack to become moist there below approximately 2400 m.

On the southern flank of the Alps, the bonding of the snowpack is mostly favourable. On the northern flank of the Alps, the bonding of the snowpack is highly variable and has been significantly influenced by various foehn weather phases. The bonding of the snowpack is most unfavourable in southern Lower Valais, northern and central Grisons, and northern Lower Engadine. In these regions, avalanches can penetrate even the near-ground, weakly bonded layers in some cases, on very steep and little used north facing slopes in particular. These avalanche prone locations are not very prevalent.

Observed weather on Monday, 17.2.2014

On Sunday night, snow fell heavily in the eastern regions in particular. During the day, it became increasingly sunny from the west. In the east, the residual cloud with an upper limit of approximately 2500 m persisted until the evening.

Fresh snow

The following amounts of snow fell above approximately 1200 m in the period from Sunday morning until Monday morning:

- Western part of the main Alpine ridge from Great St Bernhard to Zermatt, Glarus Alps, St Gallen Oberland, Surselva, central Grisons, Engadine and Grisons southern valleys: 25 to 40 cm, but up to 50 cm in some localities
- Rest of Valais, rest of central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, Ticino: 10 to 25 cm
- Elsewhere: less than 10 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -3 °C

Wind

During the night initially light to moderate from the southwest, then during the day light to moderate from the north

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 18.2.2014

After a mostly clear night, Tuesday will be generally sunny at first. In the afternoon, cloud will build up from the southwest.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about +3 °C in the north and -3 °C in the south

Wind

Southwesterly, moderate at elevated altitudes, strong at times on the main Alpine ridge

Outlook through Thursday, 20.2.2014

Wednesday

Above approximately 1200 m some snow will fall over a wide area; the heaviest snowfall will occur in the south. In the north, the temperature will fall significantly. The wind direction will change to northwesterly as the day progresses. The danger of dry avalanches may increase a little in the south in particular. The danger of wet avalanches will decrease significantly.

Thursday

It will be quite sunny for a while before cloud builds up from the west in the afternoon. Temperatures will not change significantly. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.