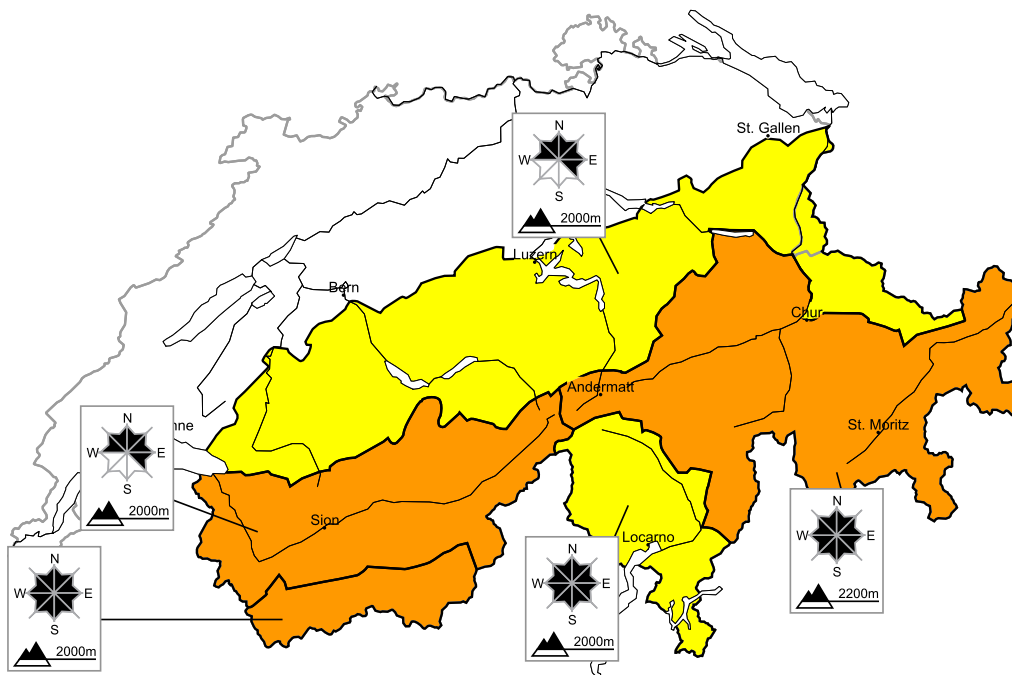


A lot more fresh snow than expected: Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

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

Avalanche danger

updated on 17.2.2014, 08:00



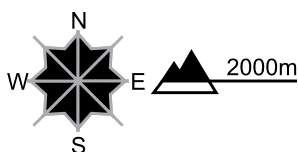
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

A lot more fresh snow than expected on the Main Alpine Ridge: The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. The snow drift accumulations of the weekend are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Snow drift accumulations can in some places be released easily. Natural avalanches are possible. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Old snow

Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. This applies especially on steep, little used north facing slopes.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



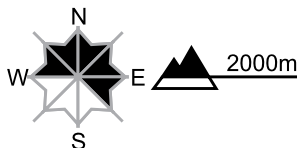
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. The more recent snow drift accumulations are mostly small. Snow drift accumulations can in some places be released easily. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. 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. This applies especially on steep, little used north facing slopes.

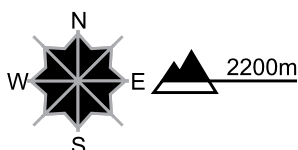
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

A lot more fresh snow than expected: The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. The snow drift accumulations of the weekend are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. They can in some places be released easily. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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.

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.

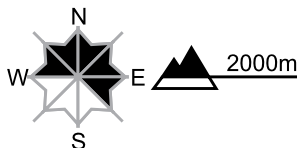
Region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the weekend are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. They can be released, especially by large additional loads,. More recent snow drift accumulations are mostly small. The snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Defensive route selection is recommended.

Old snow

Prättigau, Silvretta: 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.

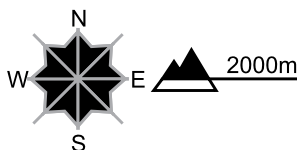
Region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and 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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.2.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, the uppermost, near-to-surface layers of the snowpack, more than anything else, are prone to triggering. The fresh fallen snow of Sunday and Monday now blankets the avalanche prone locations. As a result of the mild temperatures on Saturday, the snow cover in northern regions became moist up to high altitudes. The lower temperatures on Sunday helped a thin melt-freeze crust to form there over widespread areas. The old snow cover is for the most part favourably layered on the southern flank of the Alps. On the northern flank of the Alps the snow structuring varies greatly and shows heavy impact from the successive phases of foehn winds. Least favourable is the snow layering in southern Lower Valais, in northern and central Grisons and in northern Lower Engadine. In those regions, on very steep north facing slopes in particular, avalanches can sweep away the snowpack all the way down to the lowermost weakly bonded, near-to-ground layers. These avalanche prone locations tend to occur seldom.

Observed weather on Sunday, 16.2.2014

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, skies were heavily overcast

Fresh snow

Between Saturday midday and Sunday midday above approximately 1200 m, the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:

- Chablais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, 20 to 30 cm
- remaining western sector of northern flank of the Alps, westernmost Lower Valais, 10 to 20 cm
- elsewhere, less than 10 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais -5 °C, in Ticino and Grisons -2 °C

Wind

Southwesterly winds, during the night initially at strong velocity, then during the day slackening off to light-to-moderate strength; in the Upper Engadine still blowing at moderate to strong velocity

Weather forecast through Monday, 17.2.2014

In eastern regions, the latest round of snowfall will draw to a close in the early morning hours. During the day, skies will clear up from the west and it will become predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Sunday evening and the end of the period of precipitation on Monday afternoon above approximately 1500 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are anticipated:

- central Grisons and Engadine, 10 to 20 cm
- remaining regions, maximum 10 cm; in furthestmost western regions it will remain dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -4 °C in northern regions and -2 °C in southern regions

Wind

Predominantly light southwesterly winds, blowing at moderate velocity in high alpine regions in particular

Outlook through Wednesday, 19.2.2014

Tuesday

It is expected to be rather sunny. Southwesterly winds will intensify temporarily. With a tendency towards foehn conditions in northern regions, it will be significantly milder. The danger of dry avalanches will incrementally decrease. Wet snowslides and small avalanches will still be frequent.

Wednesday

In southern regions, skies will be heavily overcast; in northern regions, variably cloudy. In southern and eastern regions, some snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1200 m. The avalanche danger may possibly increase from region to region.