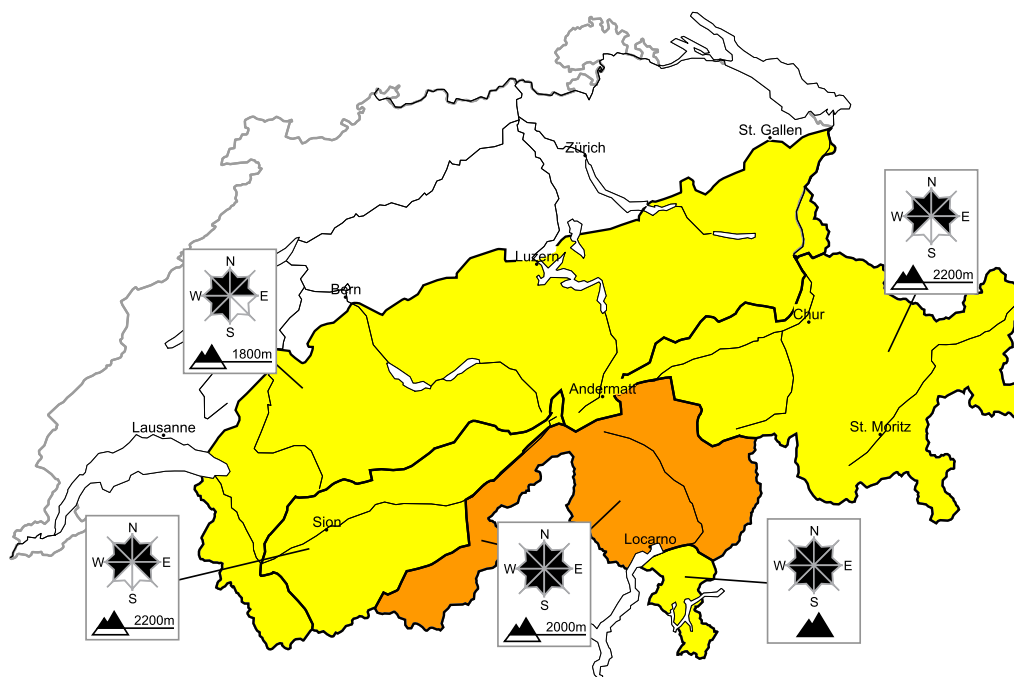


In the south a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Snow drifts require caution

Edition: 6.3.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 6.3.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 6.3.2014, 08:00



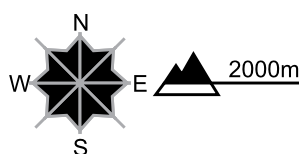
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days represent the main danger. They can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach medium size. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

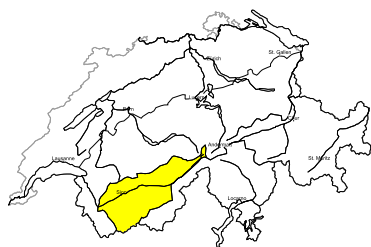
Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected, especially on very steep south facing slopes below approximately 2200 m.

Full-depth avalanches can also occur at any time. These can reach dangerously large size. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

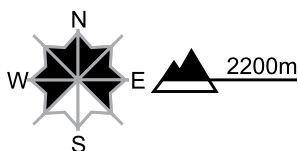
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

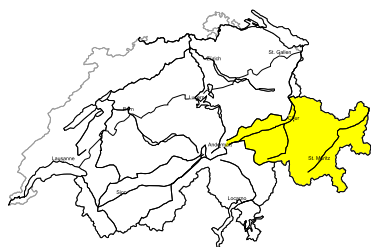
The snow drift accumulations of the last few days represent the main danger. They can be released by a single winter sport participant in isolated cases. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls and adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection. The inneralpine regions: Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on very steep shady slopes and in little used backcountry terrain.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected, especially on very steep south facing slopes below approximately 2200 m.

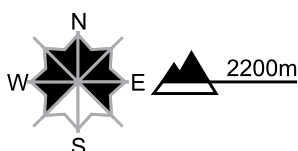
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

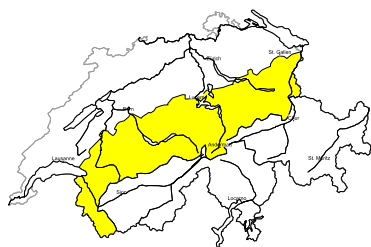


Danger description

The rather small snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls and adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects. They are sometimes covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Careful route selection is recommended. Northern Grisons and Lower Engadine north of the Inn: Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on very steep shady slopes and in little used backcountry terrain.

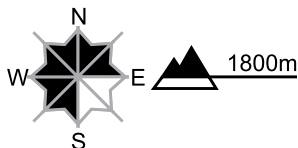
Region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the easterly wind small snow drift accumulations will form. Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls and adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects. They are sometimes covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Defensive route selection is advisable.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Western part of the northern flank of the Alps and extreme west of Lower Valais: As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected, especially on very steep south facing slopes below approximately 2200 m.

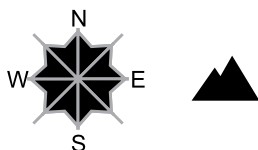
Region E

Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected. Full-depth avalanches can also occur at any time. These can reach dangerously large size. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Snow drifts

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas and in extremely steep terrain above approximately 1800 m.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 5.3.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of northerly winds, medium-sized snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering formed in some spots particularly in southern regions on Tuesday and Wednesday. In the remaining regions, the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are generally small-sized. As a result of easterly winds on Thursday, additional trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations are expected to form in areas adjacent to ridgelines more than anywhere else.

The snow cover is favourably structured in most regions. The snow layering is unfavourable, particularly on shady slopes, in southern Valais, in northern Grisons and in northern Lower Engadine. In those regions more than anywhere else, avalanches in very isolated cases can fracture all the way down to the weak layers near to the ground and sweep them away.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 5.3.2014

Last night there was a bit of snowfall in northern regions. During the day today it was predominantly sunny in the Valais and in Ticino. Skies brightened up in western regions. In eastern regions the light snowfall continued.

Fresh snow

- northern flank of the Alps from the Bernese Oberland into Liechtenstein, 5 to 10 cm
- remaining regions, less

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -4 °C in northern regions and -1 °C in southern regions

Wind

Light to moderate strength northerly winds over widespread areas; in the central sector of the Main Alpine Ridge at moderate velocity

Weather forecast through Thursday, 6.3.2014

On Wednesday night there will be a small amount of snowfall above approximately 800 m in northern regions and in Grisons. During the day on Thursday, residual cloud will persist in northeastern regions. Elsewhere it will be predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

- central and eastern sectors of northern flank of the Alps, 5 to 10 cm
- remaining regions, less; in furthestmost western regions, in the Valais and in Ticino, dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m between -2 °C in western and southern regions and -4 °C in eastern regions

Wind

- during the night in Ticino, moderate to strong velocity northerly winds; elsewhere, predominantly moderate strength northerly winds
- during the day, moderate strength easterly winds

Outlook through Saturday, 8.3.2014

On Friday and Saturday it will be sunny, following nights of clear skies. On Saturday the zero-degree level is expected to climb towards 3000 m in western regions. The hazards of dry avalanches are expected to diminish. The danger of dry avalanches will increase during the course of each day.