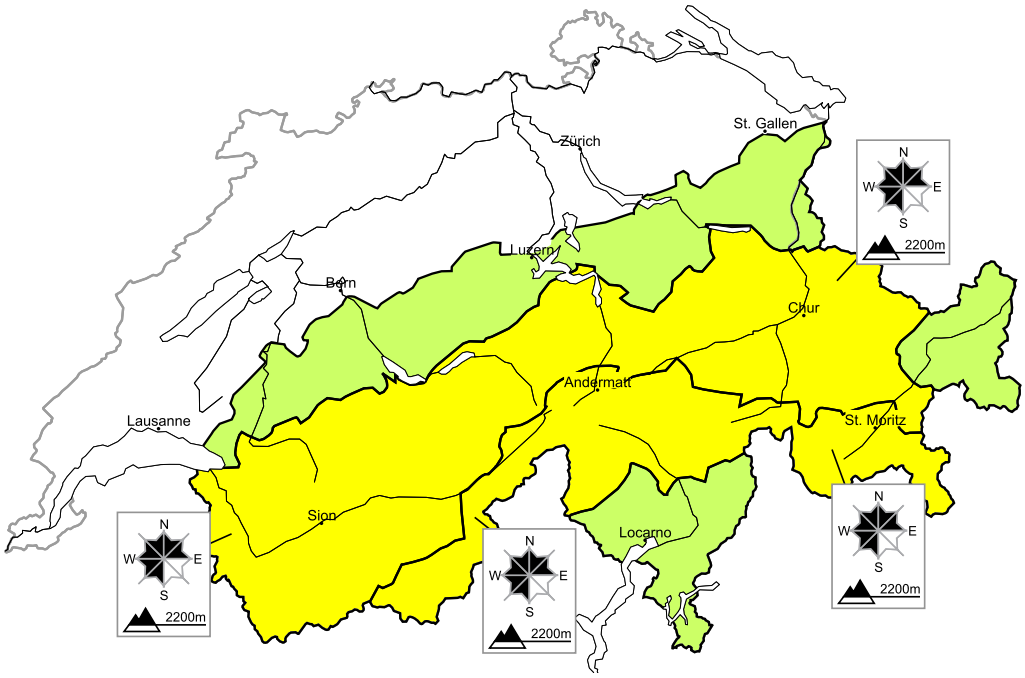
Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 8 March 2014

In the early morning a generally favourable avalanche situation will prevail. Increase in danger of wet avalanches as the day progresses

Edition: 8.3.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 8.3.2014, 08:00

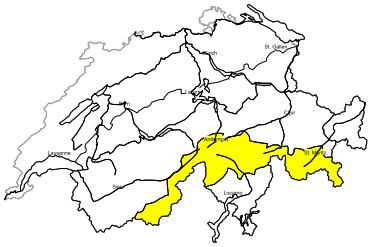
Dry avalanches

updated on 8.3.2014, 08:00



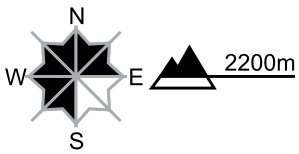
Dry, Region A

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

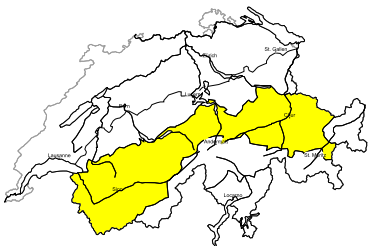


Danger description

At high altitude small snow drift accumulations will form. They are prone to triggering. Older snow drift accumulations can be released, especially by large additional loads,. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls and adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. Careful route selection is recommended.

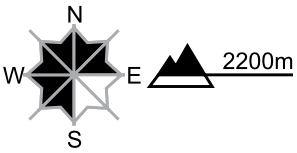
Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, Region B — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

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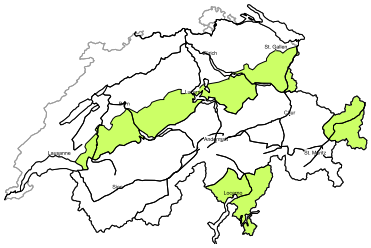
The inneralpine regions of Valais and northern Grisons: Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on very steep shady slopes and in little used backcountry terrain.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, Region C — Level 1, low



Snow drifts

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and on extremely steep shady slopes. At elevated altitudes the avalanche prone locations increase. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

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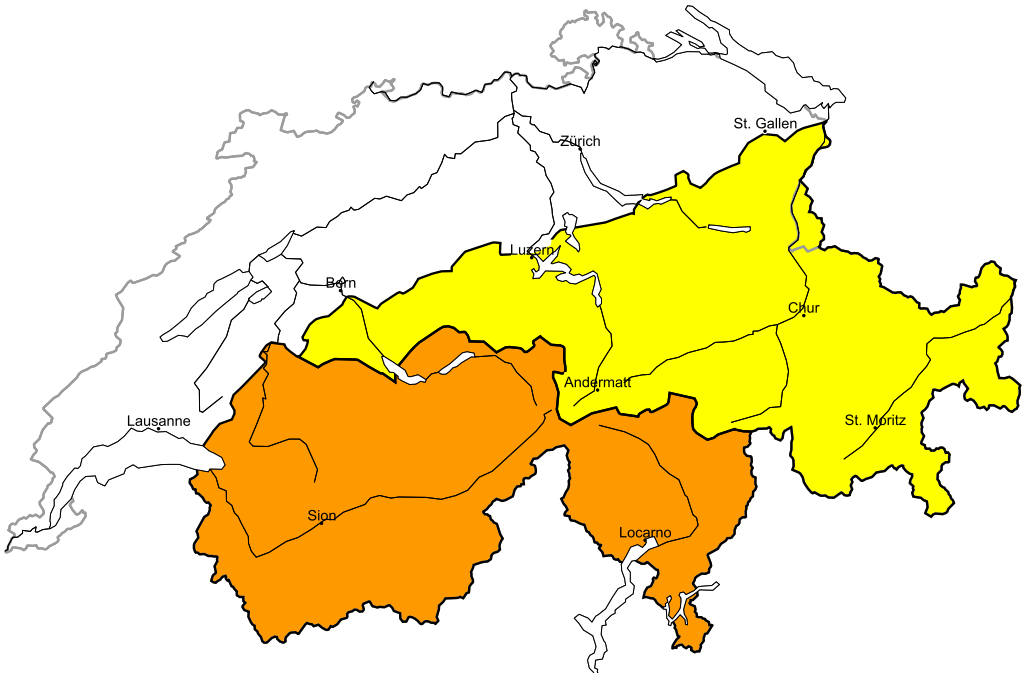
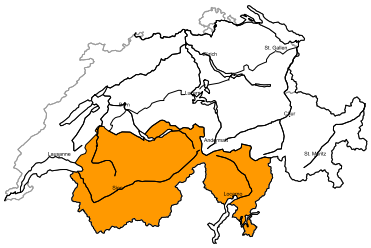
Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 8.3.2014, 08:00



Wet, Region A — Level 3, considerable



Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more frequent small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2500 m, especially on very steep east, south and west facing slopes. Especially on the southern flank of the Alps full depth avalanches can in isolated cases reach large size. Backcountry tours should be concluded early.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Wet, Region B — Level 2, moderate

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more frequent mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2500 m, especially on very steep east, south and west facing slopes. Backcountry tours should be concluded early.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 7.3.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

The strong easterly wind has given rise to relatively small snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering, especially in the high Alpine regions.
As a consequence of solar radiation and warming, the snowpack will become increasingly moist, especially on steep south facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. On steep sunny slopes a crust will form below approximately 2800 m as the temperature drops during the night. The snow on the surface of steep north facing slopes remains loosely packed over a wide area.
The snow line is between 800 and 1200 m on north facing slopes, and between 1200 and 1400 m on south facing slopes.
The bonding of the snowpack is favourable in most regions. It is less favourable in particular on west, north and east facing slopes in southern Valais, northern Grisons, and northern Lower Engadine. Here in particular, avalanches can penetrate even near-ground weak layers in very isolated cases.

Observed weather on Friday, 7.3.2014

The weather was sunny

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: about 2 °C in the west and south, and about 1 °C in the east

Wind
Light to moderate from the west to north

Weather forecast through Saturday, 8.3.2014

It will be sunny and very mild

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: between 6 °C in the west and 4 °C in the far east and the south; temperatures will rise further in the afternoon

Wind
Moderate bise in the Prealps, strong wind at elevated altitudes, from the east

Outlook through Monday, 10.3.2014

Sunday and Monday will be sunny and very mild. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. On each of the two days, the danger of wet avalanches will increase significantly as the day progresses. An increasing number of full-depth avalanches are to be expected.