Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 14 March 2014

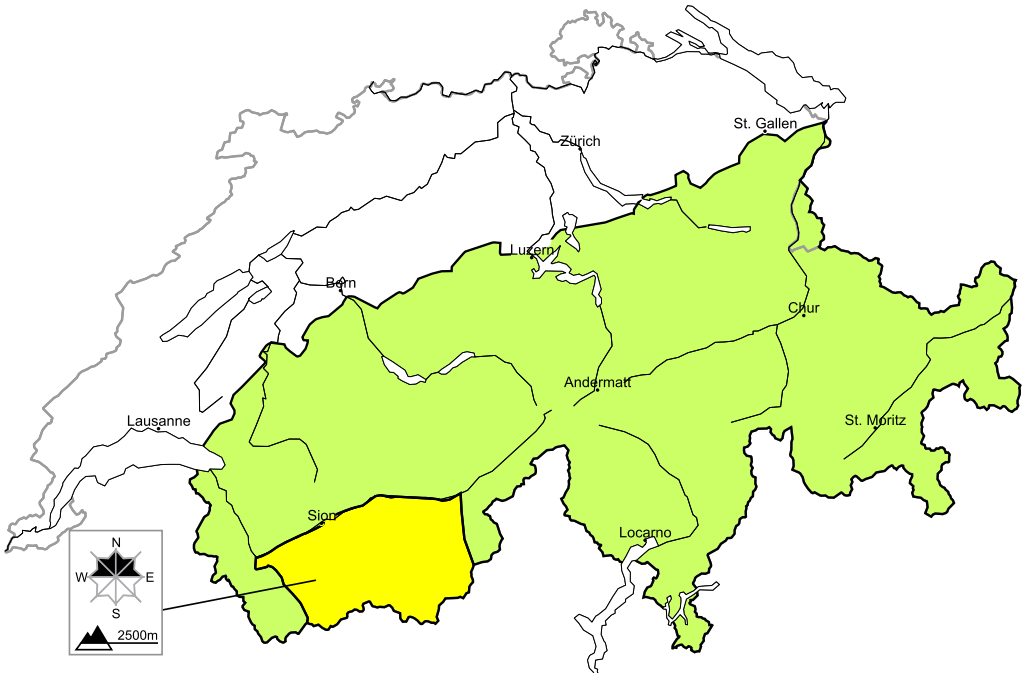
14.3.2014, 07:37

In the early morning a widespread favourable avalanche situation will prevail. Significant increase in danger of wet and full-depth avalanches as the day progresses

Edition: 14.3.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 14.3.2014, 17:00

Dry avalanches

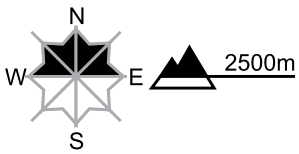
updated on 14.3.2014, 08:00



Dry, Region A | **Level 2, moderate**

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on very steep north facing slopes and in little used backcountry terrain.
The mostly small snow drift accumulations of the last few days are to be evaluated with care and prudence at elevated altitudes.

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

Danger levels 1 low | 2 moderate | 3 consider. | 4 high | 5 very high

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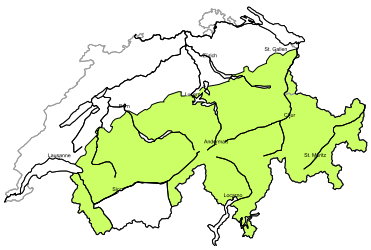
Dry, Region B — Level 1, low



Old snow

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on extremely steep slopes and adjacent to the ridge line. The mostly small snow drift accumulations of the last few days are to be evaluated with care and prudence at elevated altitudes. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised also in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

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

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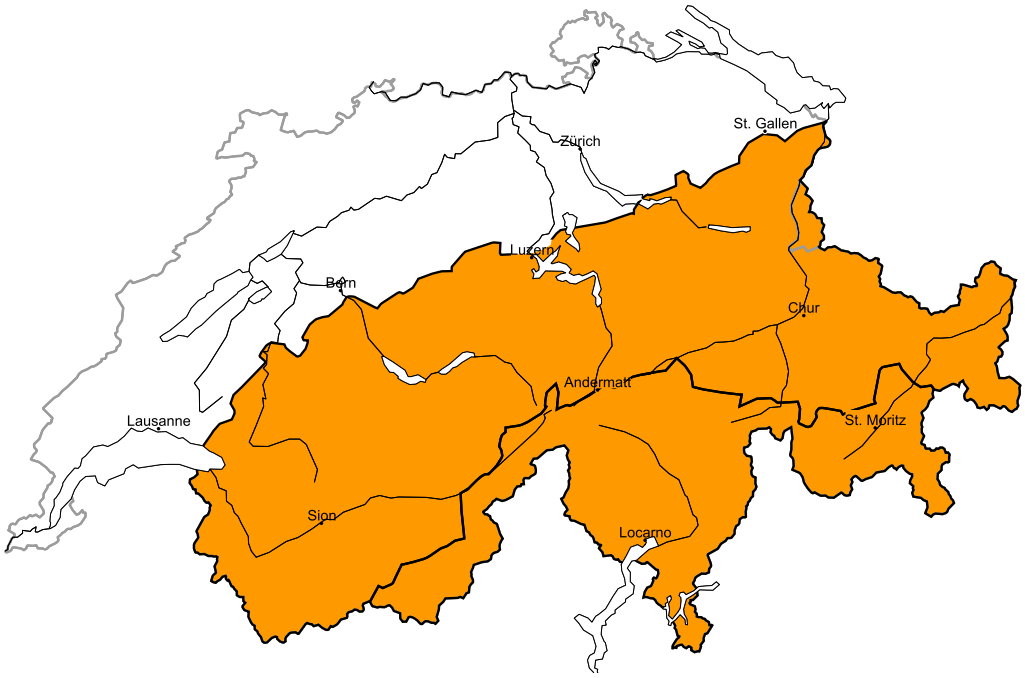
Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 14.3.2014, 08:00



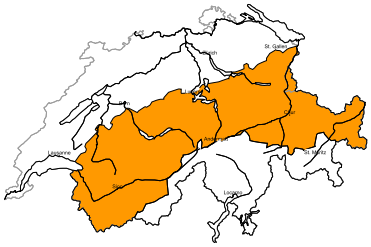
Wet, Region A — Level 3, considerable

Wet avalanches as day progresses

In particular below approximately 2500 m, steep east, south and west facing slopes: As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small and medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. Backcountry tours should be concluded early. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.
Full depth avalanches can in isolated cases reach large size. Individual full-depth avalanches can also be released in the night or in the morning. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in some cases.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Wet, Region B — Level 3, considerable



Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small and medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2600 m, in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes. Backcountry tours should be concluded early. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.
Western part of the northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais: Also on north facing slopes individual full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 13.3.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

For the most part small-sized snowdrift accumulations are still prone to triggering in some spots of high alpine regions more than anywhere else.
The snowpack surface on steep, north facing slopes at high altitudes is loosely packed and faceted. On steep, south facing slopes below about 3000 m and on east and west facing slopes below 2500 m, the snowpack is 0°-isotherm and proceeding to moisten an an increasing pace. In the regions of the north where snow is shallowest and in general in other places where the snow is shallow, the snowpack is thoroughly wet to a far greater extent than in the regions of the south where snowfall has been heavier. As a result of nocturnal cooling in steep terrain, most of all below 3000 m on south facing slopes, a crust capable of bearing loads tends to form on top of the snow cover surface. The frequency of wet avalanches and full depth snowslides remains heightened due to increasing daytime warmth and solar radiation.
The snow cover is favourably structured in most regions. The snow layering is unfavourable particularly on west, north and east facing slopes in southern Valais, in northern Grisons and in northern Lower Engadine. In those regions more than anywhere else, isolated dry avalanches, and on east and west facing slopes increasingly frequent moist avalanches, can fracture all the way down to the weak layers near to the ground and sweep them away.

Observed weather on Thursday, 13.3.2014

It was sunny, accompanied by outstanding far-ranging visibility, and very mild.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +5 °C in western and southern regions and +7 °C in eastern regions

Wind
Predominantly light easterly winds

Weather forecast through Friday, 14.3.2014

On Thursday night, skies will be generally clear; during the day on Friday it will be sunny.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, +4 °C

Wind
Light easterly winds for the most part

Outlook through Sunday, 16.3.2014

Saturday
On Friday night, skies will be clear; during the morning on Saturday it will still be quite sunny. Thereafter cloud cover will move in from the northwest and a bit of precipitation is anticipated. Temperatures will drop appreciably. At high altitudes a strong northerly wind will be blowing. The hazards of wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides are expected to increase only slightly during the course of the day. Isolated full depth snowslides are also possible during the night.

Sunday
On Saturday night and particularly on Sunday morning, some snowfall is expected in northern regions. The snowfall level will climb from approximately 1300 m up to 1700 m. Northerly winds will be blowing at strong velocity at high altitudes in particular. During the afternoon it will turn increasingly sunny from the west. In southern regions it will be generally sunny accompanied by northerly winds. The peril of dry avalanches is expected to increase slightly. The danger of wet avalanches will remain low. Isolated full depth snowslides continue to be possible at any and all times in southern regions in particular.