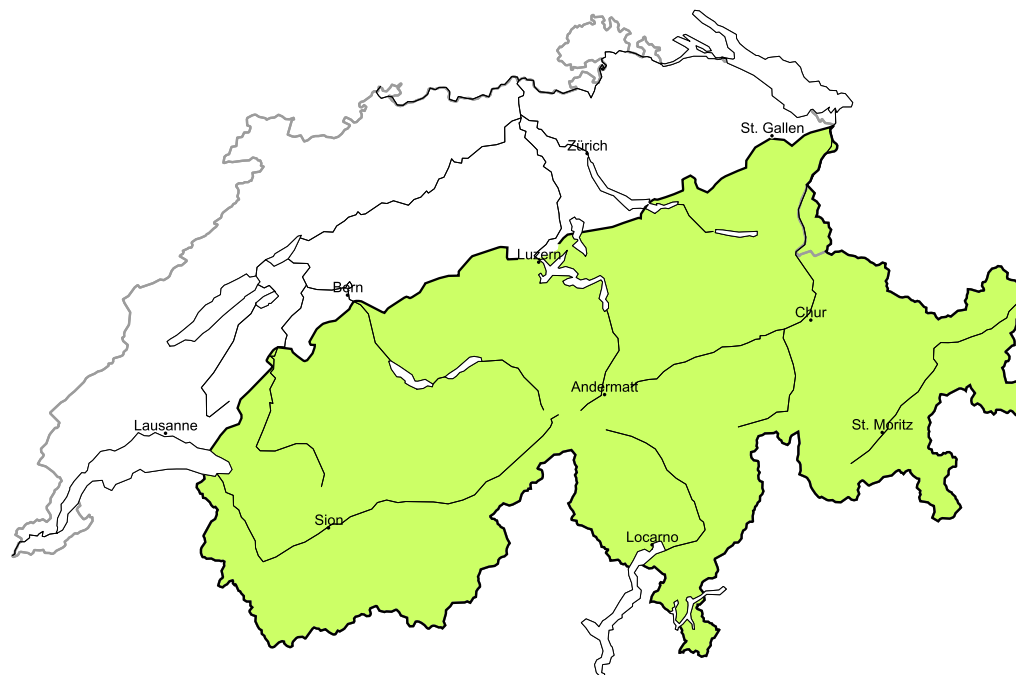


Increase in danger of wet and full-depth avalanches as the day progresses

Edition: 17.3.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 17.3.2014, 17:00

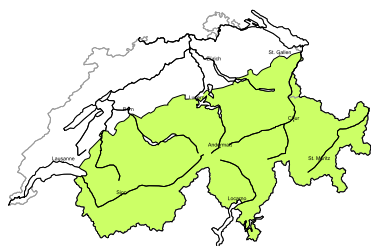
Dry avalanches

updated on 17.3.2014, 08:00



Dry

Level 1, low





Snow drifts, old snow


Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. In particular at elevated altitudes sometimes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

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


Danger levels

 1 low

 2 moderate

 3 consider.

 4 high

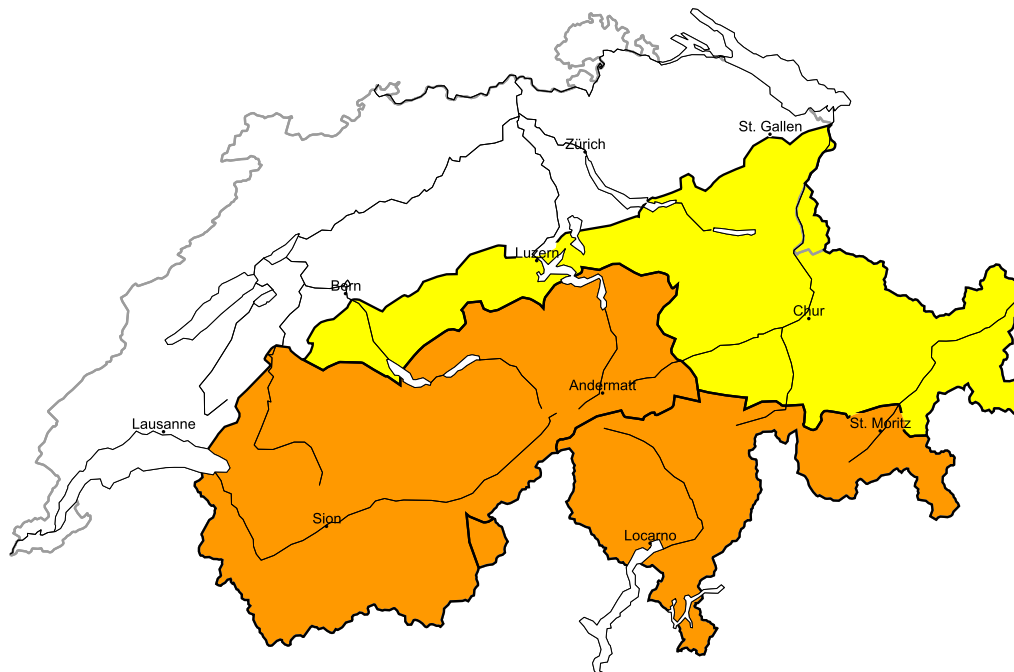
 5 very high



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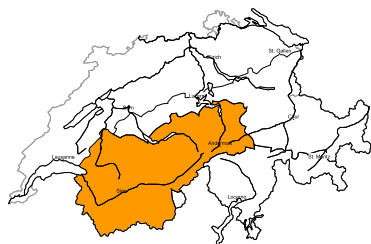
Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 17.3.2014, 08:00



Wet, Region A

Level 3, considerable



Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small and medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2800 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, Valais: Also on north facing slopes individual full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Wet, Region B

Level 3, considerable




Wet avalanches as day progresses


Full-depth avalanches are the main danger. They can in isolated cases reach large size. Individual full-depth avalanches can also be released in the night or in the morning. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation individual mostly small wet loose snow avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2800 m, in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes. Backcountry tours should be started early and concluded timely.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)


Danger levels

 1 low

 2 moderate

 3 consider.

 4 high

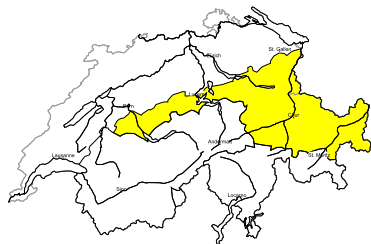
 5 very high



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Wet, Region C

Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2800 m, in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes. Backcountry tours should be concluded timely. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



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Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.3.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

At high altitudes in particular, small-sized snowdrift accumulations have formed which to some extent are prone to triggering.

The snowpack surface on steep, north facing slopes at high altitudes is heavily impacted by wind for the most part. On steep, south facing slopes following clear nights, a crust capable of bearing loads tends to form below about 3000 m. The snow cover on steep south facing slopes below about 3000 m, and on east and west facing slopes below 2600 m, is 0°-isotherm and becoming moist at an increasing pace. In the regions of the north where snow is shallower and in general wherever the snow is shallow, the snowpack is becoming thoroughly wet to a greater degree than in the southern regions where snowfall has been heavier.

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 Sunday, 16.3.2014

On Saturday night, skies were predominantly overcast. In northern regions and in Grisons there was a small amount of precipitation. During the day on Sunday it was rather sunny in western and southern regions. In eastern regions skies were heavily overcast in general. During the course of the afternoon there were isolated bright intervals.

Fresh snow

In the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, as well as in northern and central Grisons, a few centimeters above approximately 1500 m

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in northern regions and +5 °C in southern regions

Wind

in Upper Valais, in the Gotthard region, in northern Ticino and in Grisons, strong velocity northerly winds; blowing at light to moderate strength in the remaining regions

Weather forecast through Monday, 17.3.2014

Following a night of clear skies it will be sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

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

Wind

- strong northwesterly winds during the early morning hours in high alpine regions, tending to taper off during the course of the day
- at 2000 m, light to moderate westerly winds; in Ticino winds will be northerly

Outlook through Wednesday, 19.3.2014

Tuesday

It will be generally sunny and mild. The avalanche situation will be favourable in the early morning hours. Over the course of the day, wet avalanches and full depth snowslides can be expected.

Wednesday

On Tuesday night skies will be partly cloudy. During the day on Wednesday a small amount of snowfall is anticipated in northern regions. In western and southern regions it will be quite sunny. The danger of dry avalanches is not expected to change significantly. The danger of wet avalanches is expected to increase as a result of solar radiation over the course of the day in western and southern regions more than anywhere else.