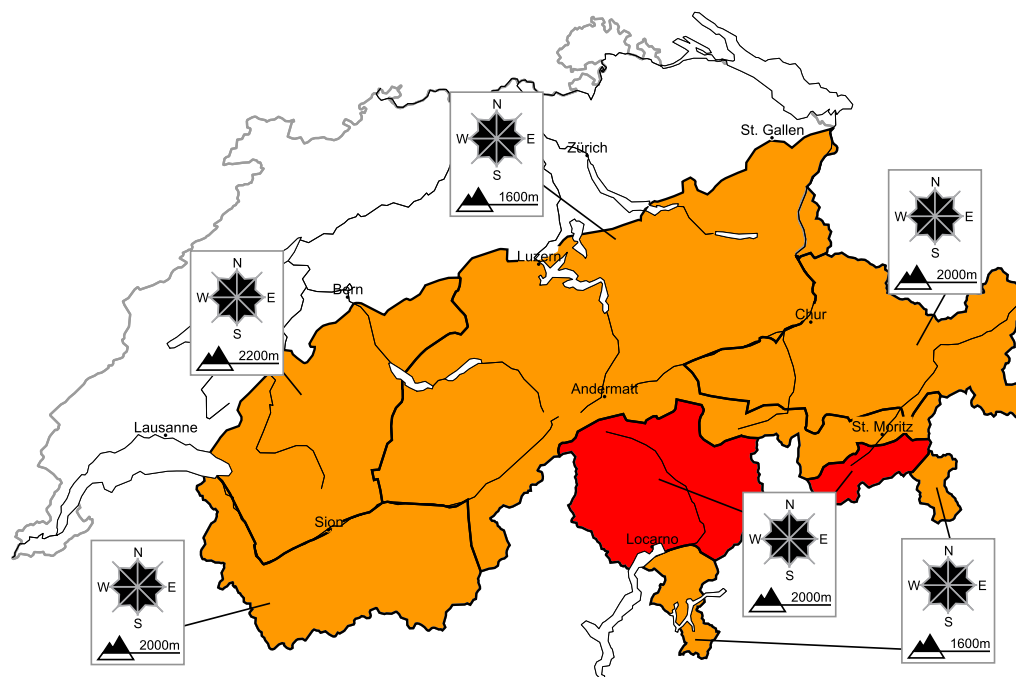


In the south a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 23.3.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 23.3.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 23.3.2014, 08:00



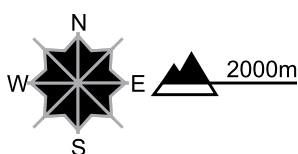
Region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

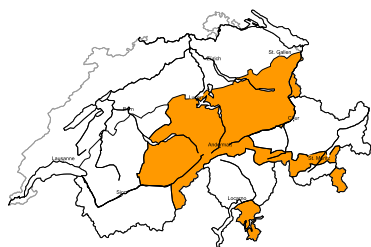
The fresh snow of the weekend is prone to triggering. In the afternoon the wind will be strong to storm force. Extensive snow drift accumulations will form. Natural avalanches are to be expected. From high-altitude starting zones in particular these can in isolated cases reach large size. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases. The conditions are very critical for winter sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

Full-depth avalanches

In all aspects individual full-depth avalanches are possible, including quite large ones.

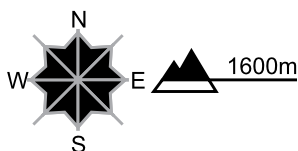
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

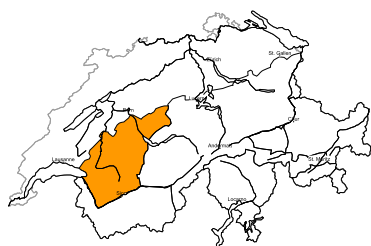
As a consequence of fresh snow and wind there will be an additional increase in the avalanche danger. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. As the day progresses natural avalanches are to be expected, including quite large ones. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Full-depth avalanches

In all aspects individual full-depth avalanches are possible. In particular in Sotto Ceneri these can reach dangerously large size.

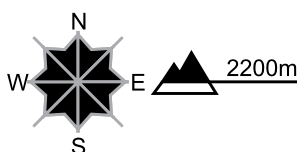
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

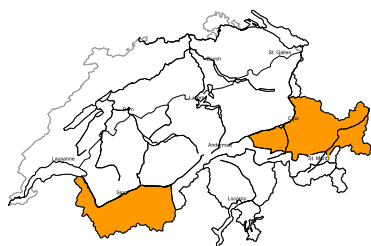
In particular at high altitude sometimes easily released snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

In all aspects individual full-depth avalanches are possible.

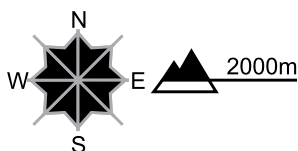
Region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The avalanche danger will increase during the day. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations will become increasingly prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed in steep terrain. In particular on west, north and east facing slopes avalanches can release the weakly bonded old snow as well and reach a dangerous size. Ski touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

In all aspects individual full-depth avalanches are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 22.3.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

On steep, wind-protected north facing slopes, fresh fallen snow has been deposited on top of an old snowpack surface of faceted crystals, in other regions on top of old, moist snow or over widespread areas atop a crust. On north facing slopes in the central and eastern sectors of the Prealps, the crust in some places is icy smooth, elsewhere quite often rough and raw.

Beneath the new fallen snow, the snow cover on south facing slopes below about 3000 m, on east and west facing slopes below about 2700 m, is 0°-isotherm and frequently moist. 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 and central Grisons as well as in northern Lower Engadine. In those regions on east and west facing slopes more than anywhere else, increasingly frequent moist avalanches can fracture all the way down to the weak layers near to the ground.

Observed weather on Saturday, 22.3.2014

Skies were predominantly overcast last night, the snow cover was able to cool off only to a limited extent. This morning in northeastern regions, there were some foehn-induced bright intervals, elsewhere skies were heavily overcast. In southern regions and in the furthestmost western regions, precipitation set in during the morning, in the remaining regions during the course of the day. In the afternoon the snowfall level in northern regions dropped from 1900 m down to about 1400 m; in Ticino, it was for the most part at about 1500 m.

Fresh snow

- westernmost Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, Ticino, Val Calanca, Val Moesa: 10 to 20 cm; in Ticino as much as 30 cm
- remaining regions, less than 10 cm; in the furthestmost northeastern regions it remained dry

Temperature

By midday, temperatures dropped markedly down to about 0 °C at 2000 m

Wind

Southerly winds were blowing at moderate velocity, in the northern sector of the Alpine Ridge at strong velocity to some extent.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 23.3.2014

Skies will be heavily overcast accompanied by snowfall, in many regions heavy. In northern regions the snowfall level is expected to descend swiftly from 1400 m down to low lying areas. In northern Ticino snowfall is expected to reach down to the valley floors, in southern Ticino there will be rainfall during the night up to about 2000 m, before the snowfall level sinks down to below 1000 m early Sunday morning. As the winds shift direction to northerly, bright intervals are expected in Ticino during the afternoon.

Fresh snow

- northern flank of the Alps from the Bernese Alps to Liechtenstein, Ticino, Grisons: 30 to 50 cm
- remaining regions: 15 to 30 cm

Temperature

Temperatures will drop significantly. At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions -8 °C, in southern regions -5 °C

Wind

- moderate southerly to westerly winds to begin with, at high altitudes blowing at stronger velocity
- increasingly intensifying northerly winds over the course of the day, during the afternoon on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards thereof, at storm strength

Outlook through Tuesday, 25.3.2014

Monday

Conditions will be variable. Snowfall is anticipated in showers down to low lying areas, heaviest on the northern flank of the Alps. In Ticino it will be rather sunny, accompanied by diminishing northerly winds. The avalanche danger is expected to decrease in southern regions. In the remaining regions, no significant change is expected.

Tuesday

Conditions will remain highly variable accompanied by more extensive bright intervals and isolated snow showers. In southern regions it will be rather sunny. The cold will persist. Avalanche hazards are expected to diminish.