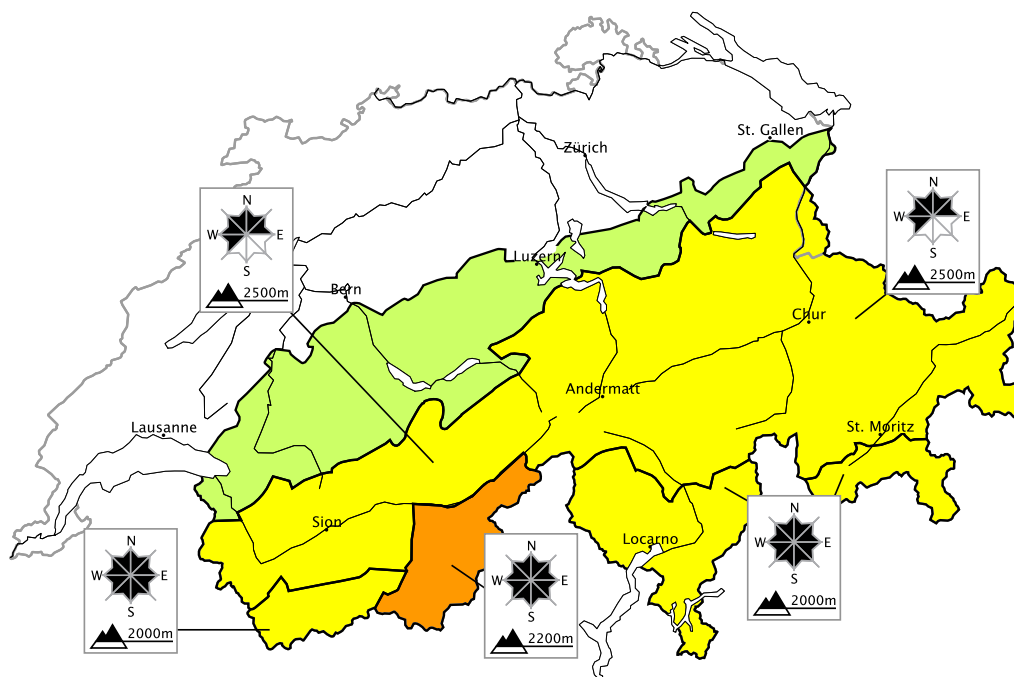


In southern Upper Valais a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Fresh snow drifts require caution

Edition: 19.4.2014, 17:00 / Next update: 20.4.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 19.4.2014, 17:00



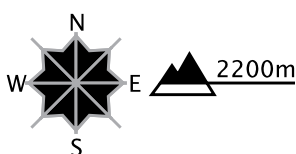
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small and medium-sized natural wet avalanches are to be expected, especially below approximately 2800 m.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

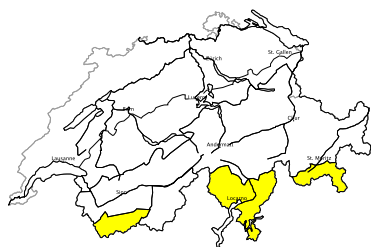
5 very high



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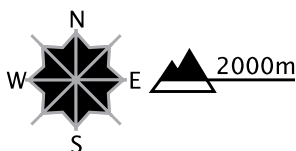
region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

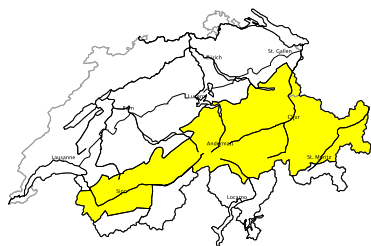
As a consequence of fresh snow and wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed, especially adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas as well as in high Alpine regions. Avalanches can in some places be released by people. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided especially in terrain where there is a danger of falling. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized natural wet avalanches are to be expected, especially below approximately 2800 m.

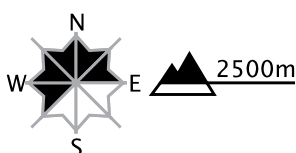
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

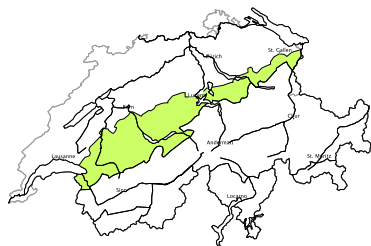
Mostly small snow drift accumulations have formed, especially adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas as well as in high Alpine regions. Avalanches can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation individual small wet snow slides and avalanches are possible, especially below approximately 2800 m.

region D

Level 1, low



Favourable situation

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation individual wet snow slides are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 19.4.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

Particularly in ridgeline and pass areas, as well as in high alpine regions in general, freshly drifted snowdrift masses have accumulated anew which are inadequately bonded with the snowpack beneath them and can be triggered by skiers or freeriders from place to place.

New fallen and newly drifted snows have been deposited on top of a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads over widespread areas. Beneath the crust, the snowpack on steep south facing slopes below approximately 3000 m, on steep east and west facing slopes below approximately 2700 m, and on north facing slopes below approximately 2200 m, is 0 °C isothermal and moist.

Observed weather on Saturday, 19.4.2014

There was snowfall over widespread areas last night, down to low lying areas intermittently. During the day it was occasionally sunny in eastern and in the furthestmost western regions in particular, elsewhere heavily overcast in general. In southern Upper Valais and in the Ticino there was snowfall, the snowfall level was approximately 1000 m. In southern Upper Valais more than anywhere else, snowfall was heavy.

Fresh snow

Above 2000 m:

- Main Alpine Ridge from Zermatt into the Binntal, Sotto Ceneri: 25 to 50 cm
- remaining Main Alpine Ridge and remaining regions southwards therefrom: 15 to 30 cm
- northern flank of the Alps eastwards of Lake Thun, remaining regions of the Upper Valais and Grisons: 10 to 20 cm
- elsewhere, 5 to 10 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -4 °C in western regions and 0 °C in eastern regions

Wind

Last night, light to moderate strength northeasterly winds; during the day today, moderate southeasterly winds, in high alpine regions blowing at strong velocity

Weather forecast through Sunday, 20.4.2014

Tonight in the southern sector of the Valais Alps and in Ticino, heavily overcast in general, accompanied by a few centimeters of snowfall. Elsewhere, skies will become increasingly clear. On Easter Sunday, skies will be quite sunny during the morning, subsequently increasingly overcast from the southwest.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m +3 °C

Wind

In high alpine regions, winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity during the night, elsewhere at light strength from southerly directions

Outlook through Tuesday, 22.4.2014

On Easter Monday skies will be heavily overcast in general. Intermittent snowfall is anticipated. On Tuesday skies will be variably cloudy. A small amount of snowfall is possible, in showers. The peril of dry avalanches will make continued caution imperative particularly above approximately 2500 m.