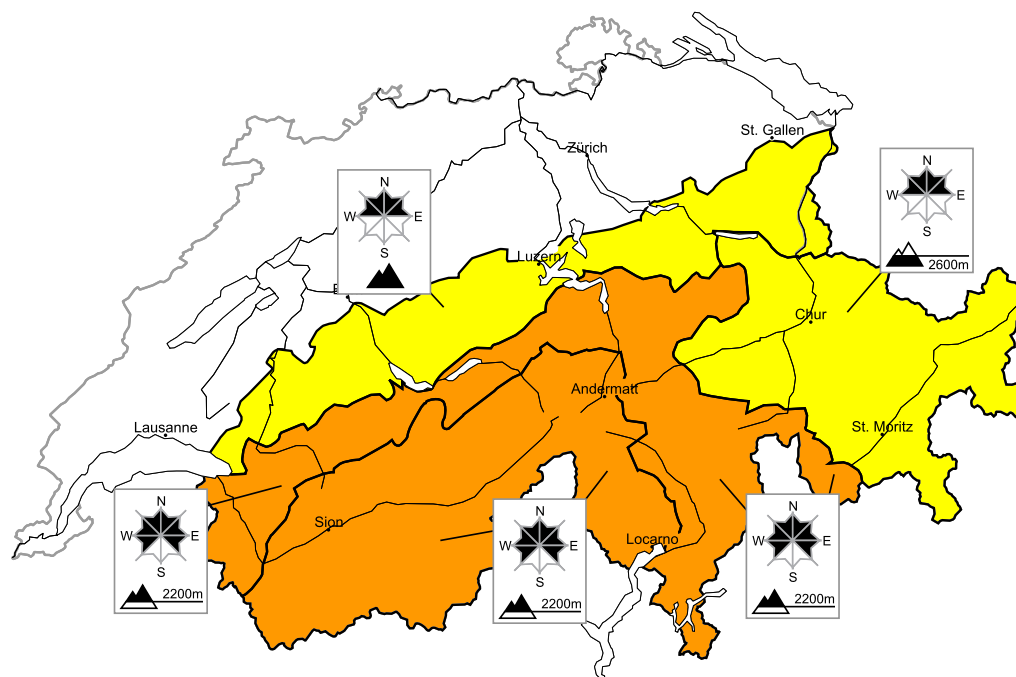


As a consequence of fresh snow a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 27.4.2014, 17:00 / Next update: 28.4.2014, 17:00

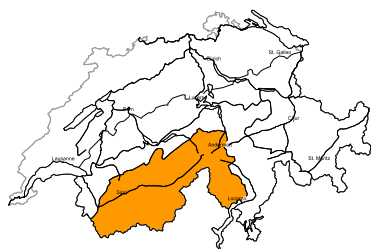
Avalanche danger

updated on 27.4.2014, 17:00



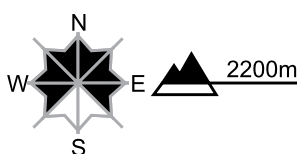
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular on wind-loaded slopes. Snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. Small to medium-sized natural avalanches are possible, in particular in high Alpine regions. Defensive route selection is required. Southern Valais: Moist avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach medium size, in particular on steep north facing slopes.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

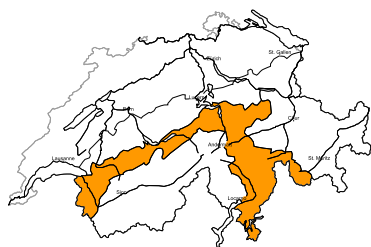
5 very high



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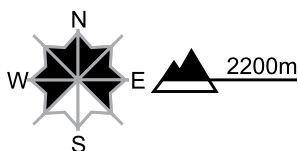
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

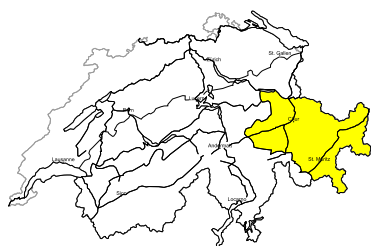


Danger description

The prevalence of avalanche prone locations and likelihood of triggering will increase with altitude. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on wind-loaded slopes. Snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. Careful route selection is required.

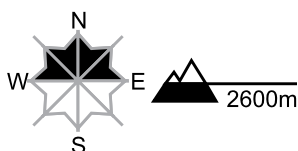
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wet and full-depth avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

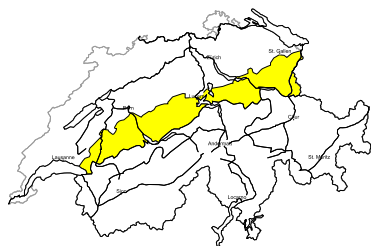
Full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected. Northern and central Grisons, Lower Engadine: As the moisture increases individual wet slab avalanches are possible below approximately 2600 m. These can in some cases penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach medium size.

Snow drifts

High Alpine regions: Fresh snow drifts are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

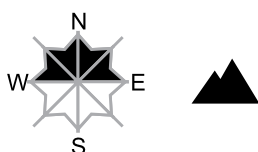
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wet and full-depth avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Small full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 27.4.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

Following nights of overcast skies and rainfall, the old snowpack is superficially moist below approximately 2400 m. The fresh fallen snow was thus deposited predominantly on top of a moist and irregular old snowpack surface. Only in high alpine regions was the snowpack surface still loosely packed in some places on steep north facing slopes.

Particularly on steep north facing slopes in southern Valais as well as in northern and central Grisons and in the Lower Engadine, where more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack are loosely packed, superficial sluffs can fracture more deeply in the snow cover and trigger medium-sized slab avalanches.

Within the more deeply embedded layers 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 2400 m, the snowpack is 0 °C isothermal and moist.

Observed weather on Sunday, 27.4.2014

On Sunday, it was dismal and wet.

Fresh snow

On Saturday night (in eastern regions during the course of the day on Sunday) the snowfall level dropped from 2000 to 2400 m down to 1400 to 1600 m in northern regions and down to 1600 to 1800 m in southern regions. Above approximately 2400 m, it snowed from Saturday evening until Sunday afternoon. The following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:

- Main Alpine Ridge from Great St. Bernard into the Gotthard region, Bedrettal, upper valleys of Maggia: 30 to 50 cm
- remaining Upper Valais, central sector of northern flank of the Alps, remaining western Ticino: 20 to 30 cm
- remaining Lower Valais, remaining parts of northern flank of the Alps, remaining Ticino: 10 to 20 cm
- Grisons: just a few centimeters

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the furthestmost western regions and +3 °C in the furthestmost eastern regions

Wind

Light to moderate velocity winds: from northerly directions at intermediate and high altitudes; at still higher altitudes, from southerly directions

Weather forecast through Monday, 28.4.2014

On Monday, skies will be heavily overcast accompanied by further precipitation.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level in western regions will be approximately 1700 m, in northern regions between 1400 and 1600 m, and in southern regions between 1800 and 2000 m. In case of intensive precipitation, the snowfall levels may drop down to considerably lower altitudes. Above 2000 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are anticipated by Monday evening:

- western and central sectors of northern flank of the Alps, upper valleys of Maggia, Bedretto: 20 to 40 cm; the heaviest precipitation is expected from southern Valais into the valleys of Maggia
- eastern sector of northern flank of the Alps, remaining Ticino: 10 to 20 cm
- Grisons: 5 to 10 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C in northern regions and +1 °C in southern regions

Wind

On the southern flank of the Alps, as well as at high altitudes and in high alpine regions, moderate to strong velocity easterly to southeasterly winds; elsewhere winds will be blowing at light strength from northerly directions

Outlook through Wednesday, 30.4.2014

On Tuesday and Wednesday in northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by brief interims of brightness and showers. In southern regions it will be partly sunny. It will tend to remain relatively cool. The avalanche danger is expected to incrementally diminish.