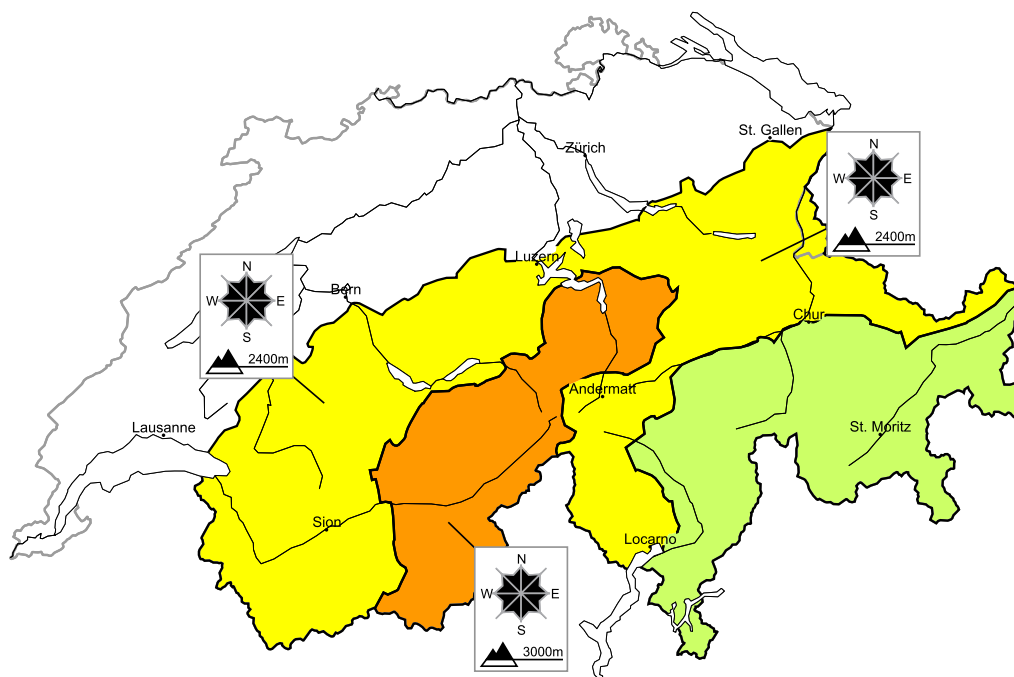


Dry avalanches in high Alpine regions. Wet avalanches as the day progresses

Edition: 3.5.2014, 17:00 / Next update: 4.5.2014, 17:00

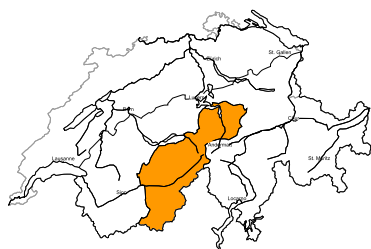
Dry avalanches

updated on 3.5.2014, 17:00



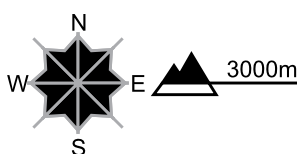
Dry, region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of last week are in some cases still prone to triggering in high Alpine regions. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example as well as adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. Ski touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

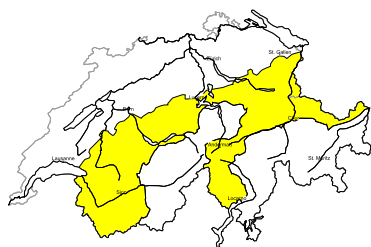
5 very high



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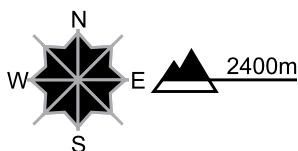
Dry, region B

Level 2, moderate



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



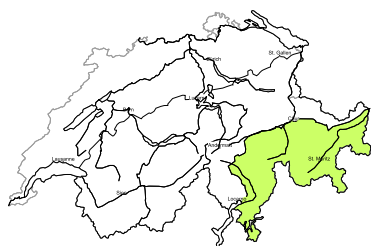
Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of last week are in some cases still prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by small loads in isolated cases, but they will be small in most cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example as well as adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. Careful route selection is advisable.

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

Dry, region C

Level 1, low



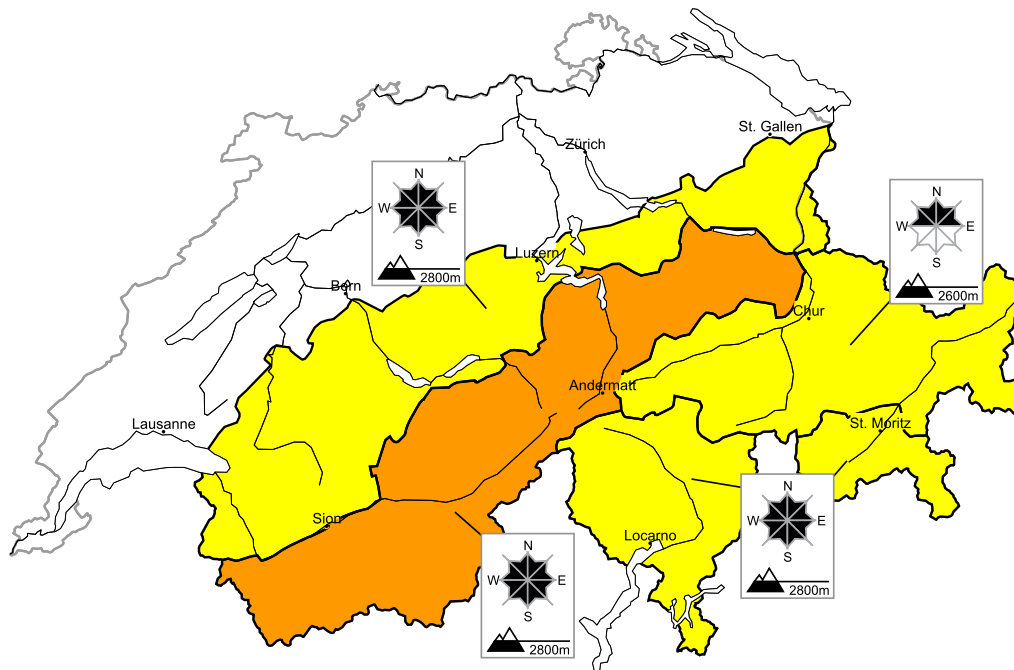
Favourable situation

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are a little more prevalent. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular 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)

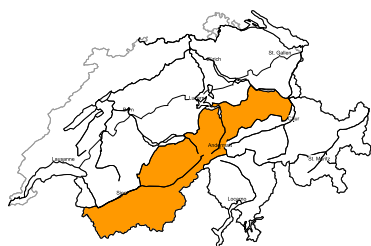
Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 3.5.2014, 17:00



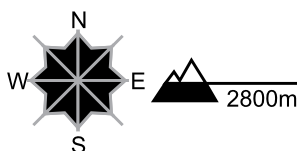
Wet, region A

Level 3, considerable



Wet avalanches as day progresses

Avalanche prone locations



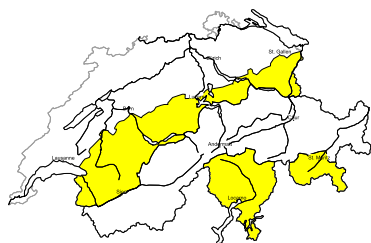
Danger description

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation there will be a significant increase in the danger of wet avalanches. Numerous small to medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. Backcountry tours and ascents to alpine cabins should be started early and concluded timely.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

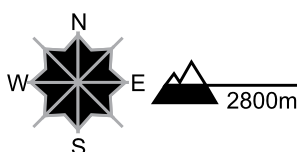
Wet, region B

Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches as day progresses

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation mostly small wet avalanches are to be expected. Backcountry tours and ascents to alpine cabins should be 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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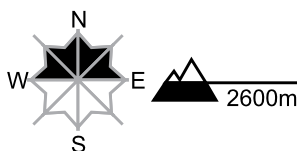
Wet, region C

Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches as day progresses

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation wet snow slides are to be expected. In isolated cases moist avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size. This applies in particular on steep northwest, north and northeast facing slopes between approximately 2200 and 2600 m. Backcountry tours and ascents to alpine cabins should be 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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Snowpack and weather

updated on 3.5.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

The masses of this week's new fallen snow, which from place to place are sizeable, were able to consolidate quite well up to high altitudes. In high alpine regions, the bonding of fresh fallen snow to the old snow cover is still inadequate in some places. As a result of northerly winds, new snowdrift accumulations are forming on the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else which are still prone to triggering.

Beneath the fresh fallen snow, the old snowpack is wet up to 2800 m, on north facing slopes up to 2200 m. In spite of the low temperatures, the snow cover is not capable of cooling down sufficiently during the night of widespread overcast skies. As a result of solar radiation and daytime warming, the likelihood of dry avalanches triggering tends to increase somewhat over the course of the day, and the probability of wet avalanches rises significantly. Particularly in central Valais, as well as in northern and central Grisons and in the Lower Engadine, as soon as the earliest phase of snowpack moistening has been initiated, isolated moist slab avalanches can release in the lowermost, ground level, coarse-grained weak layers of the snowpack. This threat is especially prevalent on north facing slopes at altitudes between approximately 2200 m and 2600 m.

Observed weather on Saturday, 3.5.2014

Skies were heavily overcast and on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in Grisons, there was snowfall. The snowfall level dropped from 2000 m down to 1600 m. During the course of the day there were bright intervals in the Valais. In southern regions it was partly sunny.

Fresh snow

At high altitudes, the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:

- northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein: 15 to 30 cm
- remaining regions: as much as 10 cm; in Ticino it remained dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -1 °C in northern regions and +5 °C in southern regions

Wind

Predominantly moderate strength winds from northerly directions

Weather forecast through Sunday, 4.5.2014

During the night, cloud cover in western regions will gradually disperse; in eastern regions skies will remain heavily overcast and snow showers will round to a close. In southern regions, a night of clear skies is anticipated. On Sunday morning, skies will still be overcast in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps below about 2400 m. Elsewhere it will be generally sunny everywhere in the Swiss Alps during the daytime, and also be somewhat milder.

Fresh snow

Above approximately 1300 m in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, just a few centimeters

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions -2 °C; and in southern regions, +3 °C

Wind

Moderate strength northeasterly winds, blowing intermittently at strong velocity during the morning in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps

Outlook through Tuesday, 6.5.2014

It will be sunny and turn warmer once again. The zero-degree level will climb to over 3000 m. On Tuesday, clouds will move in from the west during the course of the day; as evening approaches, light precipitation will be possible. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to rapidly decrease. The hazards of wet avalanches will be minor following nights of clear skies, yet will subsequently increase significantly during the course of each day.