Avalanche bulletin through Friday, 21 November 2014

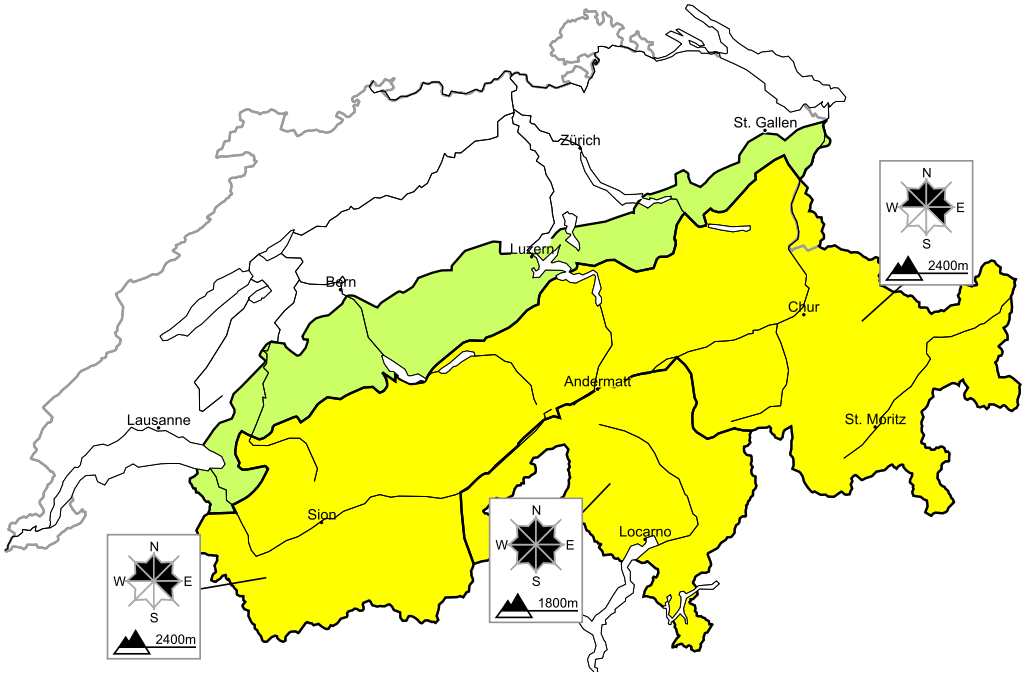
19.11.2014, 16:40

Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

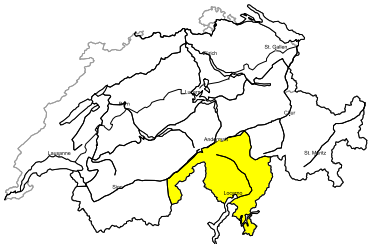
Edition: 19.11.2014, 17:00 / Next update: 21.11.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 19.11.2014, 17:00

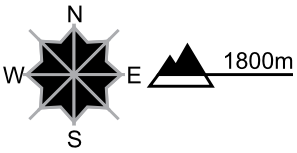


region A — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is slightly greater. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

In all aspects full-depth avalanches are possible, including medium-sized ones. On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides are possible below approximately 2600 m.

Danger levels 1 low | 2 moderate | 3 consider. | 4 high | 5 very high

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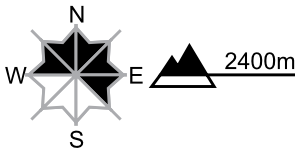
region B — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are present in all aspects and the danger is slightly greater. Meticulous route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

Individual full-depth avalanches are possible. On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides are possible below approximately 2600 m.

region C — Level 1, low

Snow drifts

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found especially at elevated altitudes and adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised also in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 19.11.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

In areas adjacent to ridgelines and pass areas, as well as in high alpine regions in general, small-sized snowdrift accumulations are prevalent which can easily be triggered.
The snow layering is favourable over widespread areas. Weak, more deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover can be triggered by people only in isolated cases. This applies particularly to north facing slopes. On very steep south facing slopes, a thin, breakable crust is forming at the snowpack surface.
The snow depths in all regions tend to increase sharply with ascending altitude. Above 2000 m on the Main Alpine Rige from Zermatt into the Bernina region and southwards therefrom, the snow cover is already one to two meters deep. In the remaining regions at 2000 m, there is approximately 50 cm of snow.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 19.11.2014

During the night there was light snowfall in northeastern regions. In western and southern regions, skies were generally clear. During the day it was sunny in western and southern regions. In northeastern regions, skies were still heavily overcast in the morning, then turned increasingly sunny during the afternoon.

Fresh snow
eastern sector of northern flank of the Alps and northern Grisons, 1 to 5 cm; elsewhere, predominantly dry

Temperature
at midday at 2000 m, 0 °C in western and southern regions; -3 °C in eastern regions

Wind
light to moderate strength winds from westerly directions

Weather forecast through Friday, 21.11.2014

On Thursday and Friday, apart from isolated cloudbanks it will be sunny and mild in the Swiss Alps.

Fresh snow
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Temperature
The zero-degree level will be at 3000 m.

Wind
predominantly light northwesterly to northerly winds, blowing intermittently at moderate velocity in high alpine regions and in the south

Outlook through Sunday, 23.11.2014

The sunny and mild weather conditions are expected to persist. The danger of dry avalanches will diminish further. During the afternoons, particularly on sun-drenched slopes, isolated wet avalanches and full depth snowslides are possible.