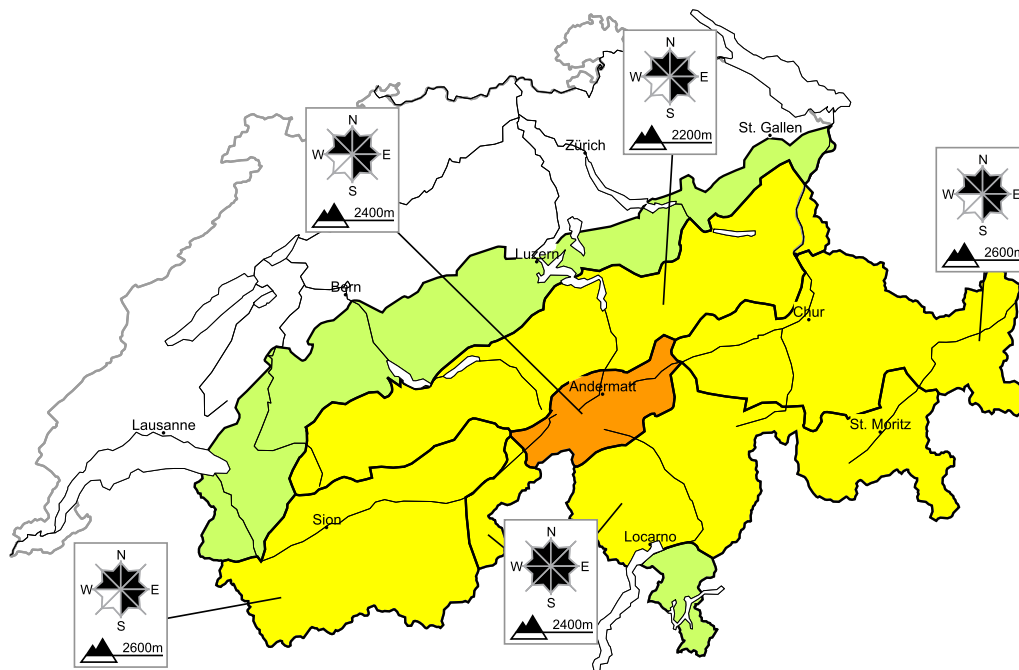


Snow drifts represent the main danger

Edition: 12.12.2014, 17:00 / Next update: 13.12.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 12.12.2014, 17:00



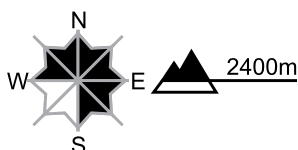
region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

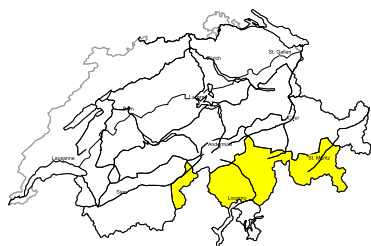


Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind precarious snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released easily, or in isolated cases naturally. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized avalanches are possible. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed as far as possible.

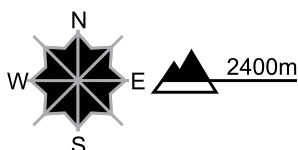
region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

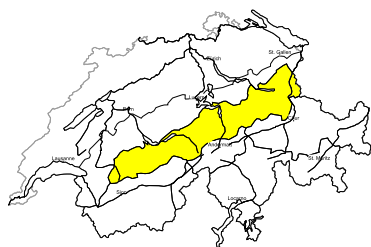


Danger description

The fresh and older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed as far as possible.

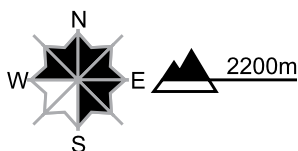
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

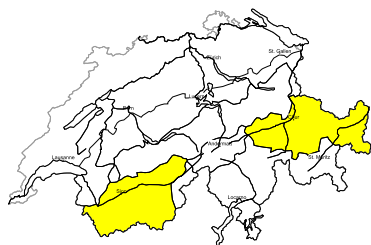


Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare and easy to recognise. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

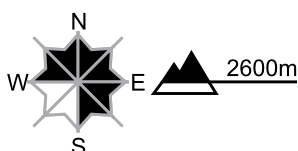
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

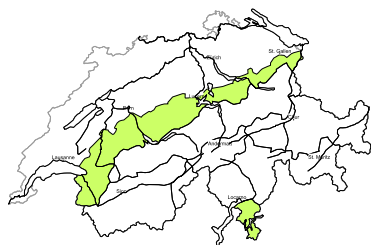


Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

region E

Level 1, low



Snow drifts

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The mostly small snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in extreme terrain. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 12.12.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of the strong velocity southwesterly winds, fresh, treacherous snowdrift accumulations have formed at high altitudes in particular. These drifted masses are currently the major danger. They are frequently being deposited on top of a crust; however in some places, on top of a loosely packed, faceted layer of snow or atop surface hoar. Beneath these layers, the snow layering is by and large favourable, the old snowpack is well consolidated over widespread areas. Only on extremely steep north facing slopes above approximately 2600 m where there is only a little snow are the layers of snow nearest to the ground already somewhat faceted, deteriorating the quality of their consolidation to moderate. From place to place in high alpine regions the snow cover has been blown completely free of snow down to the hardened old snowpack by the winds.

Below the tree line there is only a small amount of snow, the result of this week's precipitation. Above 1800 to 2000 m on north facing slopes there is an area wide old snowpack. Prior to this week's snowfall, steep south facing slopes in northern regions were to a large extent free of snow as high up as 2400 to 2600 m. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, the snow line on south facing slopes is at 1800 to 2000 m.

Observed weather on Friday, 12.12.2014

On Friday in the Valais, skies were variably cloudy. Elsewhere it was frequently sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between plus 1 degree in northern regions and minus 2 degrees in southern regions

Wind

The wind shifted from westerly to southwesterly and over widespread areas was blowing at moderate to strong velocity. In Ticino, winds were blowing at light to moderate strength for the most part.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 13.12.2014

During the morning hours it will still be sunny in some places, in the foehn-exposed regions more than anywhere else. In southern regions and during the afternoon, skies will become overcast in other regions, in the west in particular.

Fresh snow

Until evening it is expected to remain dry for the most part.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, unchanged temperatures between plus 1 degree in northern regions and minus 2 degrees in southern regions

Wind

The southwesterly wind is expected to be blowing frequently at strong velocity during the night and the early morning hours. During the course of the day, winds will gradually slacken off.

Outlook through Monday, 15.12.2014

Sunday

In the mornings, skies will still have bright intervals due to the influence of the foehn, particularly in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps. In the afternoon skies will become overcast there, as they were in the remaining regions already during the morning. However, next to no precipitation is anticipated. It is expected to remain relatively mild. Southwesterly winds will be blowing at predominantly moderate strength. The avalanche danger is expected to diminish only incrementally.

Monday

Skies will be heavily overcast and a small amount of snowfall is possible. Temperatures will drop somewhat. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.