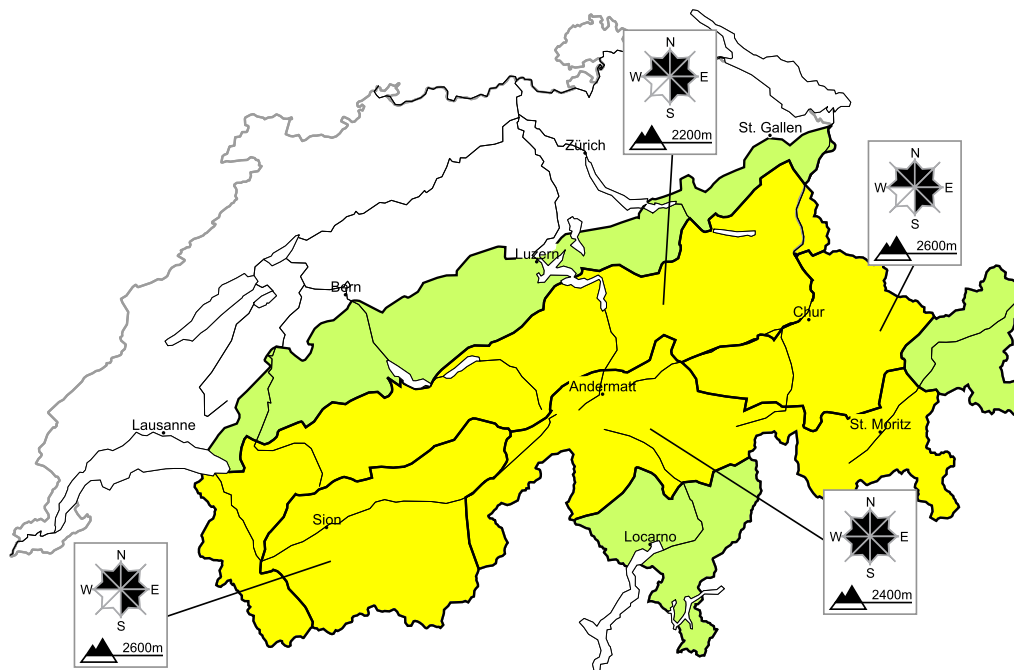


Snow drifts represent the main danger

Edition: 13.12.2014, 17:00 / Next update: 14.12.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 13.12.2014, 17:00



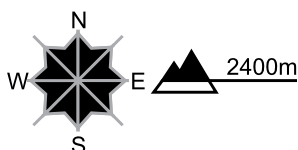
region A

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

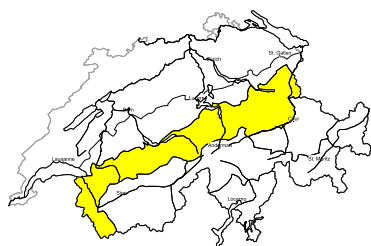


Danger description

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 easily, but they will be small in most cases. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed as far as possible.

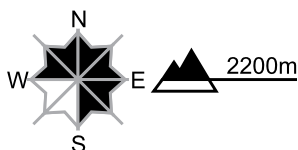
region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

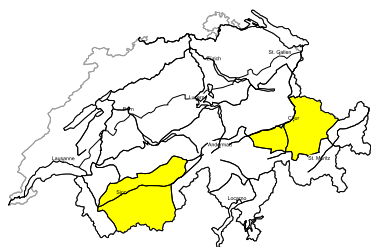


Danger description

The more recent 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.

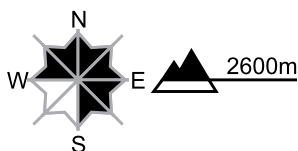
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

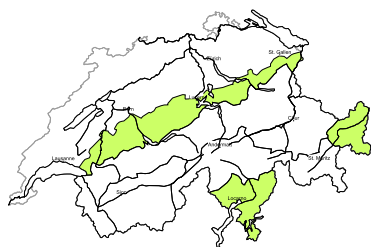


Danger description

The more recent 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 D

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 13.12.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of the strong southwesterly winds, fresh, treacherous snowdrift accumulations have formed at high altitudes more than anywhere else. These drifted masses are currently the major danger. They have frequently been deposited on top of a loosely packed, faceted layer of snow or atop surface hoar, which in turn blankets a crust. Beneath these layers the snow structure is for the most part favourable, the old snow cover is well consolidated over widespread areas. Only on extremely steep north facing slopes above approximately 2600 m where there is little snow are the layers of snow nearest to the ground already somewhat faceted, thereby deteriorating the quality of their consolidation to moderate. In high alpine regions the snowpack in some places has been blown completely free of snow down to the old, hardened snowpack by the winds.

On the Main Alpine Ridge from Zermatt into the Bernina region and southwards therefrom, the snow depths are currently somewhat deeper than the norm for this juncture of the season. Elsewhere the snow depths are below average. The uppermost surface of the snow cover frequently bears marked influence of winds.

Observed weather on Saturday, 13.12.2014

On Saturday skies in southern regions were overcast. In northern regions foehn-induced bright intervals were prevalent. Mild temperatures prevailed.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

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

Wind

The southwesterly wind was blowing at persistently strong velocity, slackening off only incrementally over the course of the day.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 14.12.2014

In southern regions skies will be predominantly overcast. In northern regions there will be foehn-induced bright intervals.

Fresh snow

Towards evening in southern regions, light snowfall is expected to set in above approximately 1500 m.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, 0 °C in northern regions and -2 °C in southern regions

Wind

Winds are expected to slacken off. They will be blowing at light to moderate strength from southwesterly to southerly directions.

Outlook through Tuesday, 16.12.2014

The small amount of snowfall will blanket the snowdrift accumulations to a certain extent, making them difficult to recognize. Elsewhere the avalanche situation is not expected to change significantly.

Monday

Skies will be heavily overcast by and large. Above approximately 1500 m a small amount of snowfall is anticipated, particularly in southern regions.

Tuesday

In northern and eastern regions there will still be a small amount of snowfall. In the Valais and in Ticino, it will turn increasingly sunny. Temperatures are expected to decrease somewhat.