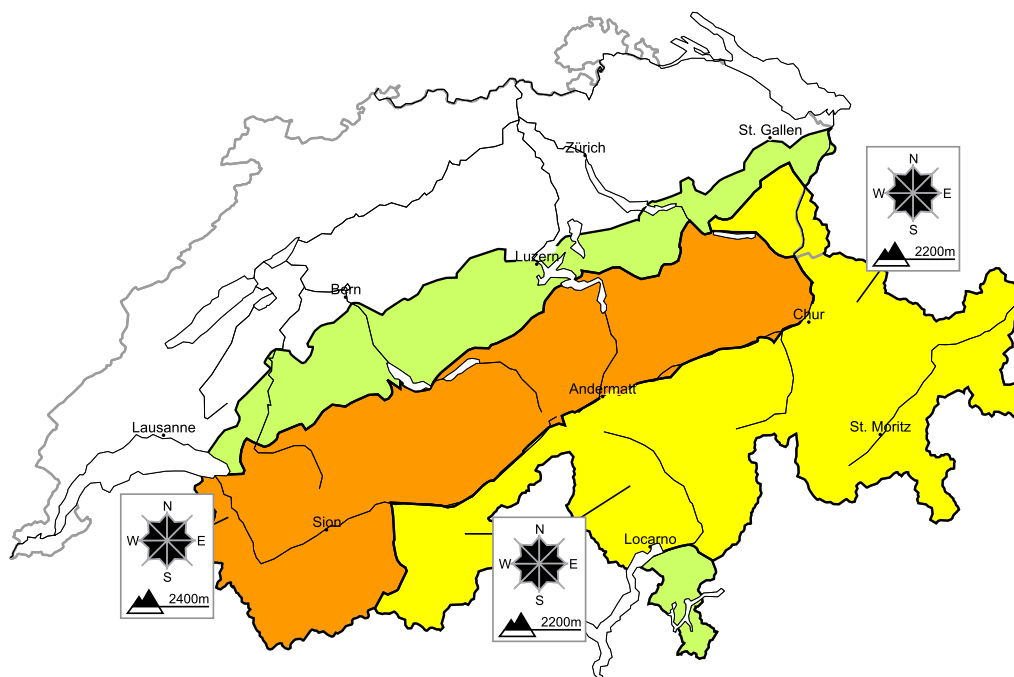


At elevated altitudes a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 19.12.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 19.12.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 19.12.2014, 08:00



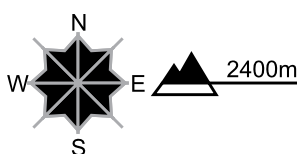
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

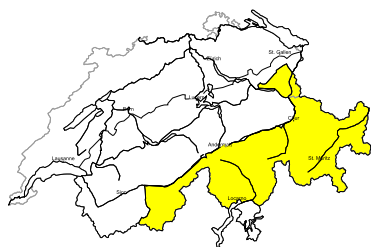
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack at elevated altitudes. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can in isolated cases reach medium size. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

Below approximately 2200 m individual wet snow slides are possible.

region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

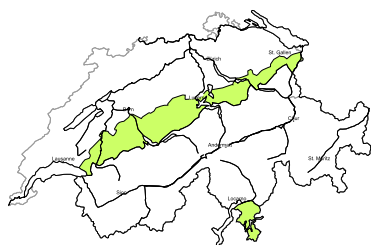
Fresh and older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Mostly the avalanches are only small. Careful route selection is advisable.

Wet avalanches

Below approximately 2200 m individual wet snow slides are possible.

region C

Level 1, low



Wet avalanches

Wet snow slides are possible in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular in extremely steep terrain. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 18.12.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

Fresh fallen and drifted snows are prone to triggering, more than anywhere else at high altitudes. In addition, in the sections of the snowpack structure nearest to the uppermost surface, faceted, loosely packed layers are evident. Avalanches can be triggered from these layers. More deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack are well consolidated for the most part. Nonetheless, even these layers are faceted and loosely packed in some places on north facing slopes above approximately 2600 m where there is little snow.

Observed weather on Thursday, 18.12.2014

On Wednesday night there was snowfall. During the course of the day on Thursday following a brief interim, precipitation then set in again from the west. The snowfall level ascended from approximately 1000 m up to approximately 2400 m.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening above approximately 2500 m, the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:

- northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, Lower Valais: 15 to 30 cm over widespread areas
- from remaining Valais over the Gotthard region to northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm
- further to the south: less snowfall or none at all

Temperature

Midday temperatures at 2000 m:

- in western and southern regions, +4 °C
- in eastern regions, +2 °C

Wind

Light to moderate strength westerly to northwesterly winds, blowing intermittently at strong velocity on the northern flank of the Alps

Weather forecast through Friday, 19.12.2014

To begin with on Friday it will by and large be sunny in the Swiss Alps. During the afternoon, clouds will move in from the northwest.

Fresh snow

On Thursday night in eastern regions, a few centimeters of snowfall is anticipated above approximately 2200 m.

Temperature

Midday temperatures at 2000 m:

- in northern regions, +2 °C
- in southern regions, +5 °C

Wind

In northern and in high alpine regions, strong to storm-strength winds, elsewhere blowing at moderate velocity, from westerly to northwesterly directions

Outlook through Sunday, 21.12.2014

Saturday

On Friday night a small amount of snowfall is expected which will focus on the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps. The snowfall level is expected to drop from approximately 2000 m down to 1200 m. In eastern regions, a bit more snowfall is expected during the course of the day. In western regions, bright intervals are anticipated. In southern regions, it will be sunny for the most part. The danger of dry avalanches is not expected to change significantly. The danger of moist avalanches is expected to decrease.

Sunday

In the Valais and in southern regions, it will be rather sunny. Elsewhere bright intervals approaching from the west will make themselves felt. The avalanche danger is expected to diminish incrementally.