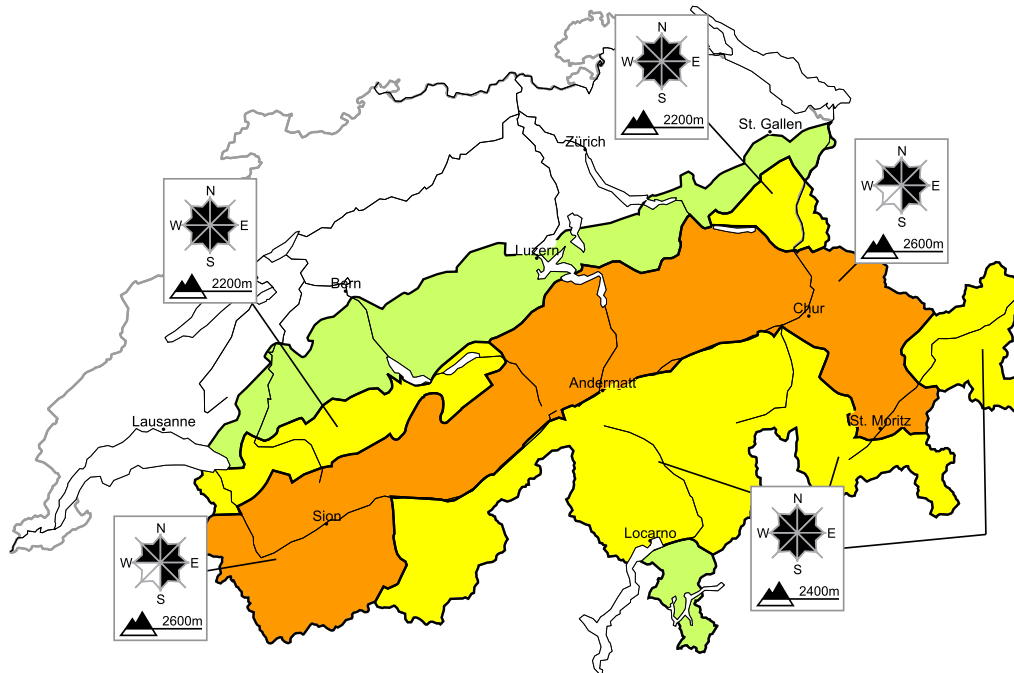


# At elevated altitudes a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 20.12.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 20.12.2014, 17:00

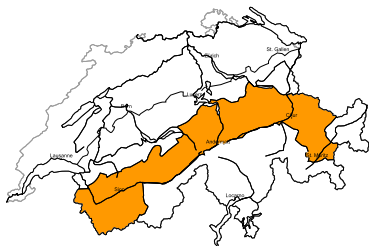
## Avalanche danger

updated on 20.12.2014, 08:00



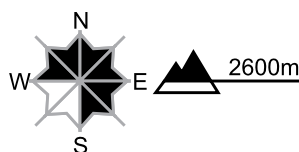
### region A

### Level 3, considerable



#### Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

##### Avalanche prone locations

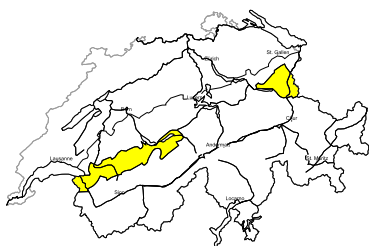


##### Danger description

Fresh and older 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.

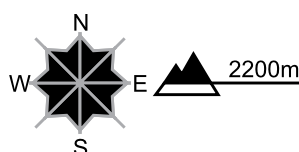
### region B

### 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. Mostly avalanches are small. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Careful route selection is advisable.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

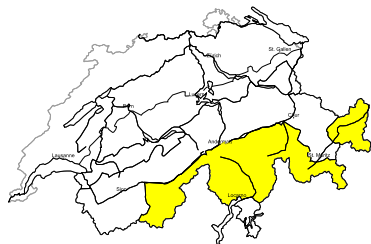
3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

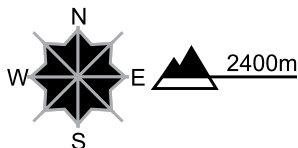
**region C**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**

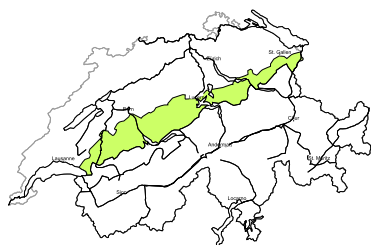


**Danger description**

Fresh and older snow drift accumulations are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack at elevated altitudes. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Mostly the avalanches are only small. Caution is to be exercised on steep north facing slopes in high Alpine regions. Here avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is slightly greater. Defensive route selection is important.

**region D**

**Level 1, low**



**Snow drifts**

The small snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering in particular on very steep shady slopes and at elevated altitudes. 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.

**region E**

**Level 1, low**



**Favourable situation**

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 19.12.2014, 17:00

### Snowpack

As a result of new fallen snow and winds, snowdrift accumulations continue to form: predominantly small sized, but prone to triggering. In addition, particularly at high altitudes, older snowdrift accumulations with faceted, loosely packed layers of old snow are evident. Avalanches can trigger in these layers. These avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognize. More deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover are well consolidated for the most part. However, even these layers are faceted and loosely packed on north facing slopes above approximately 2600 m, particularly where there is but little snow.

### Observed weather on Friday, 19.12.2014

On Thursday night in northern regions, the last round of precipitation came to an end. The snowfall level was above 2200 m. During the morning hours on Friday it turned rather sunny. Subsequently, high altitude cloud cover moved in from the west.

#### Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Friday morning above approximately 2500 m, the following amounts of fresh 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 snow or none at all

#### Temperature

Midday temperatures at 2000 m:

- in northern regions, +3 °C
- in southern regions, +6 °C

#### Wind

On the northern flank of the Alps and in Upper Valais, moderate to strong velocity winds, in other regions blowing at light to moderate strength, from westerly directions

### Weather forecast through Saturday, 20.12.2014

In northern regions, skies will be heavily overcast by and large. Intermittent snowfall is anticipated, with the focal point in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps. The snowfall level is expected to drop during the course of the day from 1300 down to approximately 800 m. In southern regions it will be rather sunny.

#### Fresh snow

Between Friday evening and Saturday evening, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are expected:

- northern flank of the Alps from the Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein, Gotthard region: 10 to 20 cm
- remaining regions: 5 to 10 cm over widespread areas. On the southern flank of the Alps it will remain dry.

#### Temperature

Midday temperatures at 2000 m:

- in northern regions, -3 °C
- in southern regions, 0 °C

#### Wind

In northern regions and in general in high alpine regions, strong to storm-strength westerly to northwesterly winds will be blowing. Elsewhere, light to moderate strength northwesterly winds will prevail.

### Outlook through Monday, 22.12.2014

On Sunday in western and southern regions, it will be predominantly sunny. In eastern regions once the final snow showers have come to an end, increasingly frequent bright spells will be felt. On Monday it will be sunny for the most part. In eastern regions, high altitude cloudbanks are anticipated.

The avalanche danger is expected to decrease incrementally.