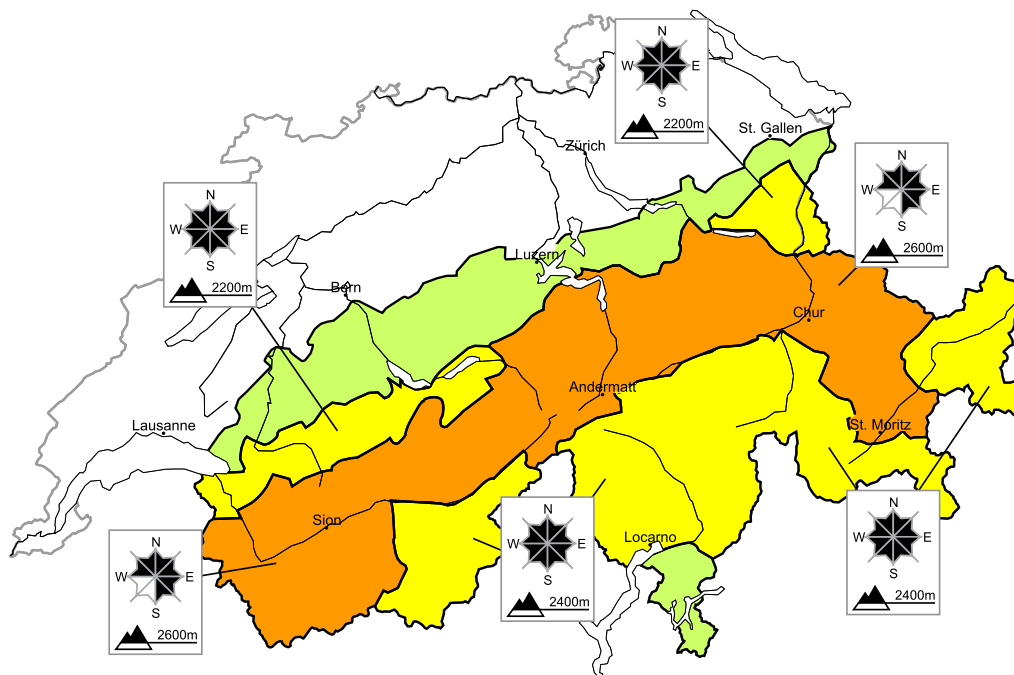


At elevated altitudes a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 21.12.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 21.12.2014, 17:00

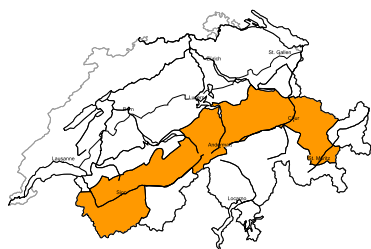
Avalanche danger

updated on 21.12.2014, 08:00



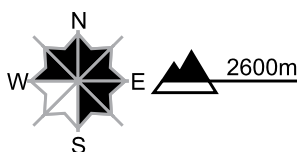
region A

Level 3, considerable



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. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. 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.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

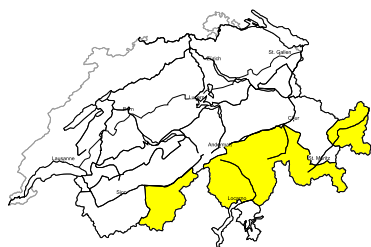
5 very high



WSL Institute for Snow and
Avalanche Research SLF
www.slf.ch

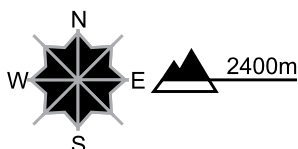
region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

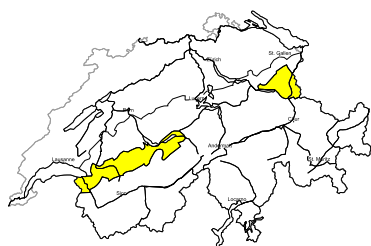


Danger description

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. Defensive route selection is important.

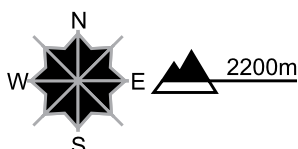
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

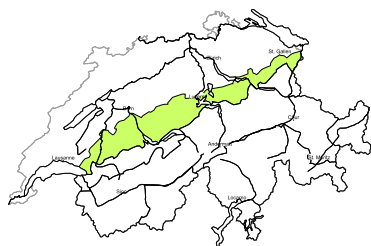


Danger description

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.

region D

Level 1, low

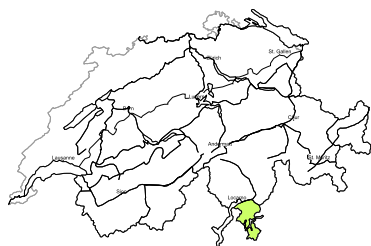


Snow drifts

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 on extremely steep shady slopes.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 20.12.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

The fresh fallen and drifted snow from this past week have been deposited for the most part on top of faceted and loosely packed layers of old snow above approximately 2400 m. Avalanches can be triggered in these layers. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognize. More deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover are well consolidated over widespread areas. However, even these layers are faceted and loosely pack on north facing slopes above approximately 2600 m where there is but little snow.

Observed weather on Saturday, 20.12.2014

During the night in northern regions, skies were heavily overcast and there was intermittent snowfall. The snowfall level dropped down towards 1500 m. During the day today on the northern flank of the Alps, skies were variably cloudy. In inneralpine and southern regions it was sunny by and large.

Fresh snow

During the night on Friday above 2000 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- northern flank of the Alps, 5 to 20 cm
- Lower Valais, as well as Prättigau, 5 to 10 cm
- elsewhere, only a little new fallen snow, or it remained dry

Temperature

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

Wind

Moderate strength westerly to northwesterly winds, blowing at strong velocity in high alpine regions in particular

Weather forecast through Sunday, 21.12.2014

During the night in the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, intermittent snowfall down to low altitudes is anticipated. Tomorrow during the day on the northern flank of the Alps skies will be partially overcast. Elsewhere it will be quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Central and eastern sectors of northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, Samnaun: as much as 5 cm. Elsewhere it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in western and southern regions -2 °C; and in eastern regions -5 °C

Wind

Moderate to strong velocity westerly to northwesterly winds. In southern regions, northerly winds blowing at moderate strength.

Outlook through Tuesday, 23.12.2014

On both days it is expected to be sunny for the most part. The zero-degree level will ascend noticeably, reaching approximately 3000 m on Tuesday. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to diminish incrementally. Particularly on extremely steep, sunny slopes moist sluffs can be expected.