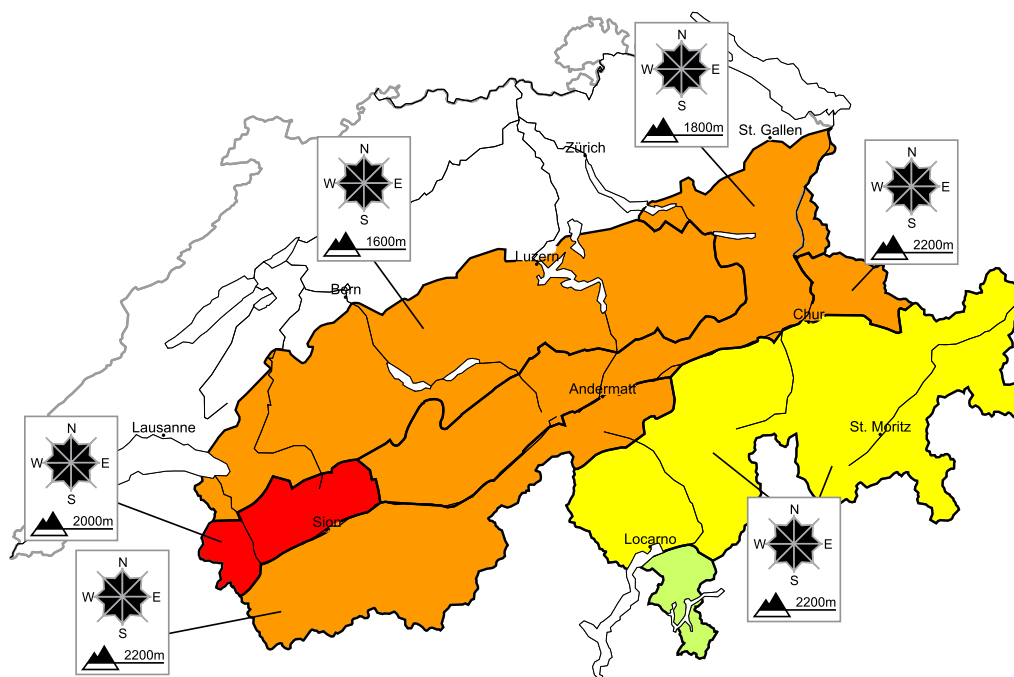


In the west a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 28.12.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 28.12.2014, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 28.12.2014, 08:00



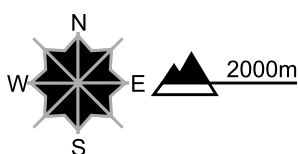
region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

More snow than expected has fallen during the night. As a consequence of fresh snow and wind large snow drift accumulations have formed. These represent the main danger. The danger exists in particular in alpine snow sports terrain. Numerous small and medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. In isolated cases, however, large avalanches capable of endangering exposed parts of transportation routes are also possible. The conditions are dangerous for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

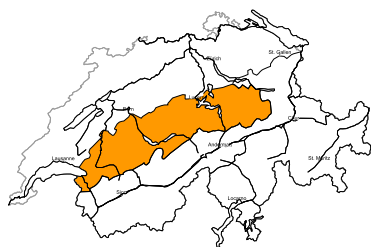
5 very high



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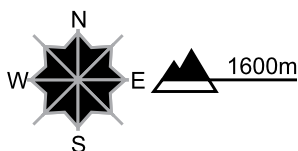
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

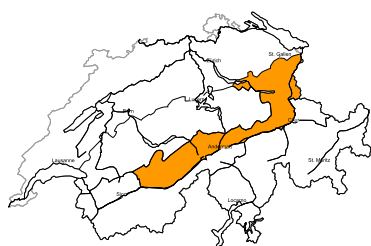


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. These represent the main danger. In some cases avalanches are medium-sized and easily released. Natural avalanches are possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered. The conditions are very critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

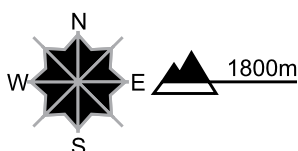
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

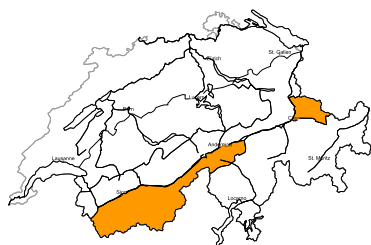


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind precarious snow drift accumulations have formed. These represent the main danger. In isolated cases avalanches are medium-sized and easily released. Natural avalanches are possible. The conditions are critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

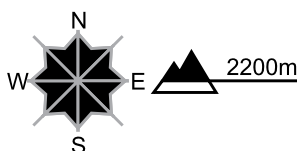
region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

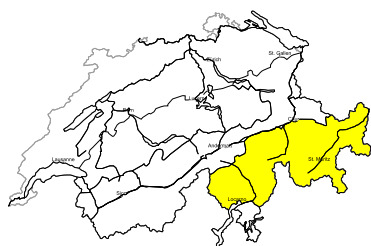


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind precarious snow drift accumulations have formed. These represent the main danger. Avalanches can additionally be released in the old snowpack also. In isolated cases avalanches are medium-sized and easily released. Natural avalanches are possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered. This applies in particular in Lower Valais. The conditions are critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

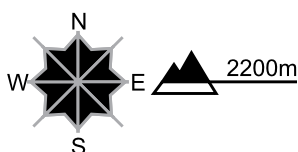
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

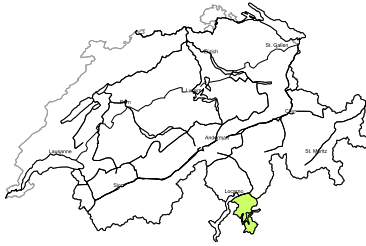


Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. Faceted weak layers exist in the top section of the old snowpack in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region F

Level 1, low



Favourable situation

Only a little snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 27.12.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of new fallen snow and strong velocity westerly winds, wide ranging snowdrift accumulations have formed in western regions more than anywhere else which are to some extent highly likely to trigger. Due to the low temperatures, the drifted masses are generally soft. The fresh fallen and drifted snows have been deposited on top of an irregular old snow cover which frequently bears heavy marks of wind influence. On south facing slopes, the snowdrift beneath approximately 2400 m has in many places been deposited on top of a melt-freeze crust. In zones relatively well protected from the wind, the new fallen and drifted snows were deposited on top of a loosely packed snowpack surface; precisely in those places the snow is especially prone to triggering. In addition, inside the uppermost layers of the old snow cover in some places, weak layers are embedded which are to some extent prone to triggering. All in all, these avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognize. As it has been until now, the snow layering continues to be most favourable in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps.

The sparse snowbase over widespread areas makes route selection a demanding challenge for participants in winter sports. It also heightens the hazards of injury through collision with rocks.

Observed weather on Saturday, 27.12.2014

Skies were overcast and there was snowfall over wide ranging areas. In western and northern regions the snowfall was intermittently intensive and reached down to the flatlands.

Fresh snow

On Friday evening in northeastern regions, the snowfall came to an end. Following a short interim, snowfall set in once again from the west during the early morning hours of Saturday. Overall in the last two days, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow have been registered:

- Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps from the Grimsel region to Walensee: 30 to 50 cm
- Northern Upper Valais, remaining sectors of northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons: 20 to 30 cm
- Southern Upper Valais, Jura: 10 to 20 cm. Elsewhere, less snow or it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -5 °C in northwestern regions and -10 °C in southeastern regions

Wind

Winds were blowing at moderate strength in Ticino. In the remaining regions winds prevailed for the most part at strong to storm velocity from southwesterly to westerly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 28.12.2014

In northern regions, skies will remain overcast and light snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. In southern regions, it is expected to turn sunny during the course of the day.

Fresh snow

- Northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm
- Valais, northern and central Grisons, Engadine: 5 to 15 cm. Elsewhere, predominantly dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -12 °C in northern regions and -10 °C in southern regions

Wind

During the night, strong velocity winds from westerly to northwesterly directions, during the day blowing at moderate strength and shifting to northeasterly. In Ticino, northerly foehn winds are expected to arise.

Outlook through Tuesday, 30.12.2014

On Monday morning in northern regions, it will still be sunny, after which cloud cover will rapidly move in from the north and light snowfall set in. In southern regions, it will be sunny. On Tuesday in northern regions, an additional bit of snowfall is anticipated. In the Valais it will be intermittently sunny; in southern regions, predominantly so. It is expected to remain cold and windy. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.