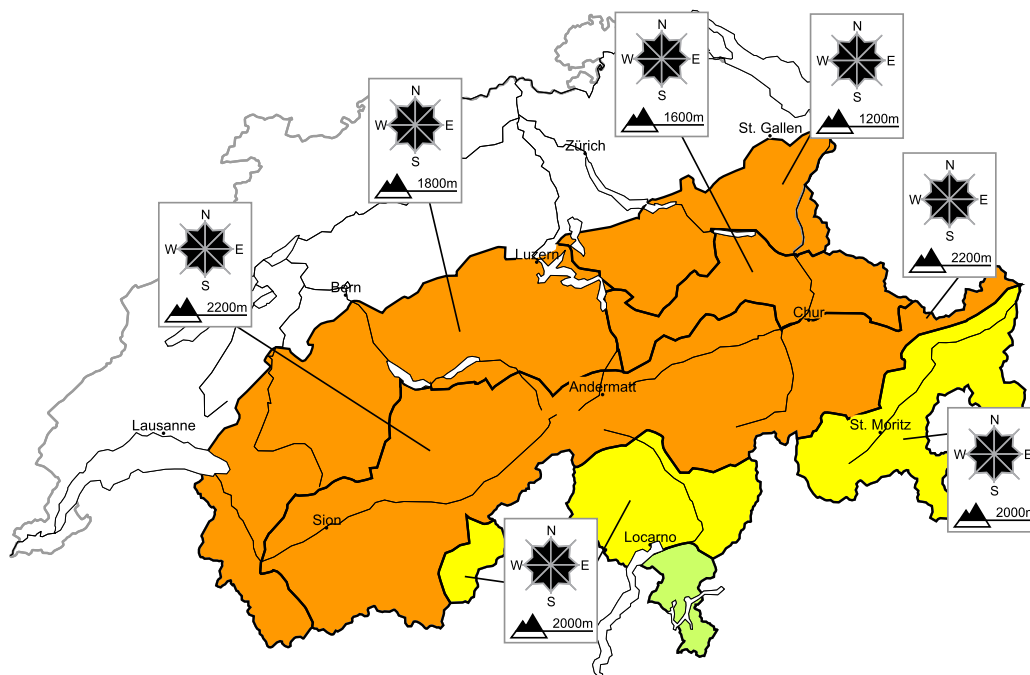


## Outside marked and open pistes a precarious avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 31.12.2014, 08:00 / Next update: 31.12.2014, 17:00

### Avalanche danger

updated on 31.12.2014, 08:00



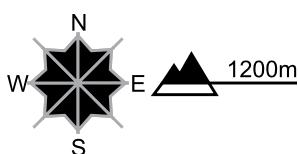
#### region A

#### Level 3, considerable



#### Fresh snow and snow drifts

##### Avalanche prone locations



##### Danger description

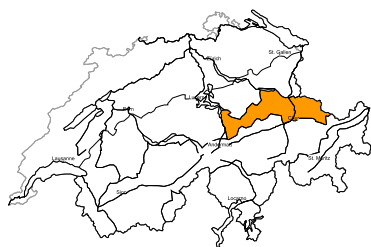
The fresh snow of the last few days is prone to triggering. Somewhat older snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. Small to medium-sized loose snow avalanches are possible on steep slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint. This also applies at intermediate altitudes.

#### Full-depth avalanches

Isolated full-depth avalanches and snow slides are possible at low and intermediate altitudes.

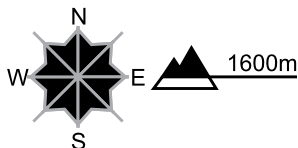
## region B

## Level 3, considerable



## Fresh snow and snow drifts

## Avalanche prone locations



## Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind further snow drift accumulations have formed. Somewhat older snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

## Full-depth avalanches

Isolated full-depth avalanches and snow slides are possible at low and intermediate altitudes.

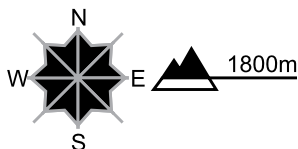
## region C

## Level 3, considerable



## Snow drifts, old snow

## Avalanche prone locations



## Danger description

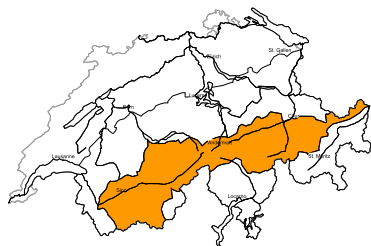
The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. Avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack. This applies especially in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint.

## Full-depth avalanches

Isolated full-depth avalanches and snow slides are possible in particular at intermediate altitudes.

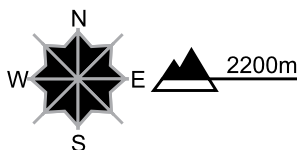
## region D

## Level 3, considerable



## Snow drifts, old snow

## Avalanche prone locations

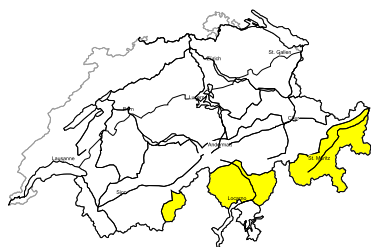


## Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. Additionally avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack. In isolated cases avalanches are medium-sized and easily released. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint.

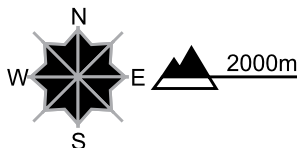
## region E

## Level 2, moderate



## Snow drifts, old snow

## Avalanche prone locations

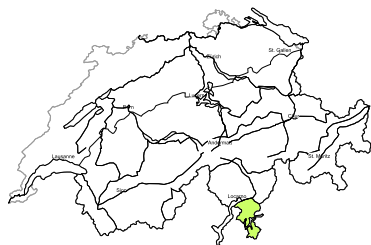


## Danger description

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. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be avoided.

## 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 30.12.2014, 17:00

### Snowpack

In recent days snow has fallen continuously in the north and east, even in the lowlands. At 2000 m, 50 to 100 cm of snow is lying over a wide area, and the snow cover is around 150 cm deep in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in northwestern Ticino. Up to 50 cm of snow is lying at 2000 m in the Visp valleys and Engadine.

In the north this week's fresh snow layers, which are deep in some places, are settling and bonding slowly. In areas with shallow snow cover in particular, avalanches can be released in the old snowpack. The bonding of the old snowpack is most favourable on the southern flank of the Alps. In all regions the strong northerly wind has given rise to fresh snow drift accumulations at high altitudes, which are prone to triggering in some cases.

### Observed weather on Tuesday, 30.12.2014

On Sunday night snow fell heavily in some cases and in larger quantities than expected in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons. During the day the weather was mostly very cloudy in the north and east. On the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons snow fell even in the lowlands. To the south of the main Alpine ridge and in the far west it was mostly sunny.

#### Fresh snow

On the northern flank of the Alps east of the Brienzersee, in the western Prealps and in Prättigau 20 bis 40 cm of snow fell, and as much as 60 cm fell in the eastern Prealps. On the rest of the northern flank of the Alps and in the rest of Grisons 10 to 20 cm of snow fell. In the period from Saturday afternoon until Tuesday afternoon, the following amounts of snow fell:

- Prealps and northern flank of the Alps from the Brienzersee to Liechtenstein: 60 to 80 cm, but up to 100 cm in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps
- Rest of the northern flank of the Alps, northern and western Lower Valais, Prättigau: 30 to 60 cm
- Rest of Lower Valais, northern Upper Valais, northern Grisons excluding Prättigau, Silvretta, Samnaun: 20 to 30 cm
- Other regions: smaller amounts or none

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -9 °C in the west and -12 °C in the east

#### Wind

Moderate to strong, in the high Alpine regions storm force from the north

### Weather forecast through Wednesday, 31.12.2014

In the east cloud will persist at first. The light snowfall will cease in the morning. As the day progresses it will become increasingly sunny in the Prealps and the east. It will be mostly sunny in the west and south.

#### Fresh snow

- Central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons: 10 to 20 cm
- Bernese Alps, central Grisons, northern Engadine: a few centimetres

#### Temperature

Rising temperatures, at midday at 2000 m reaching between -3 °C in the west and -8 °C in the east

#### Wind

Moderate bise in the north and moderate northerly wind in the south, with a strong to storm force northeasterly persisting in the high Alpine regions

### Outlook through Friday, 2.1.2015

New Year's Day will be mostly sunny in the mountains. The northerly wind will ease and temperatures will continue to rise. Berchtold's Day will be sunny at first. As the day progresses, cloud will build up from the northwest and light precipitation will commence. The snowfall level will rise to 1500 m. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. The danger of moist snow slides and full-depth avalanches will increase in the north in particular.