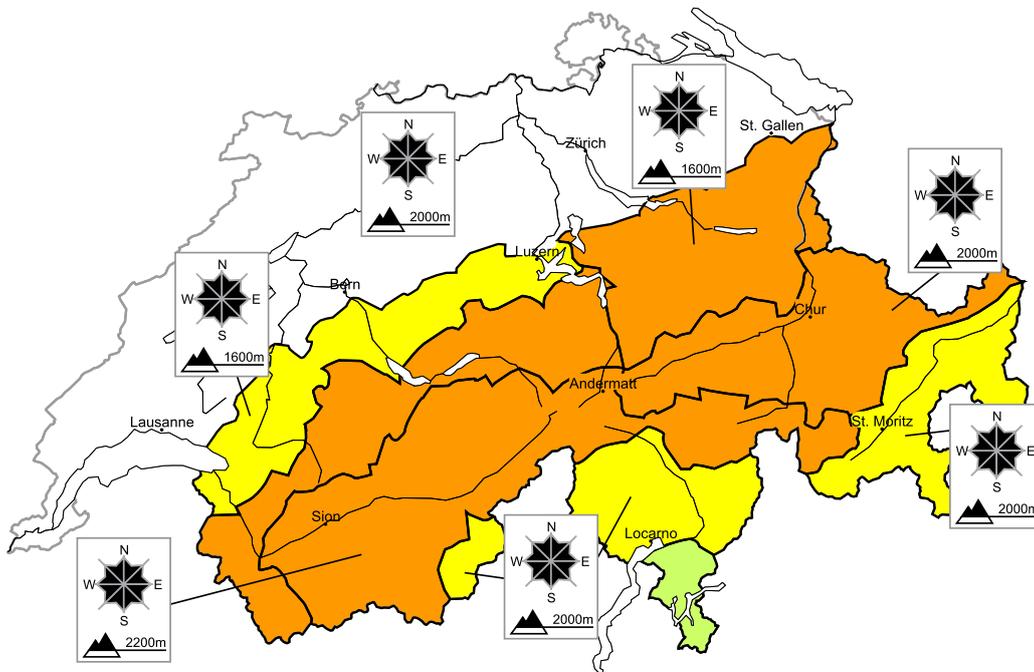


Outside marked and open pistes a precarious avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 31.12.2014, 17:00 / Next update: 1.1.2015, 08:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 31.12.2014, 17:00



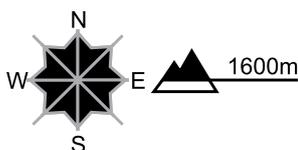
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Small to medium-sized loose snow avalanches are possible on very steep sunny slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint. This also applies at intermediate altitudes.

Full-depth avalanches

Full-depth avalanches are to be expected at low and intermediate altitudes. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

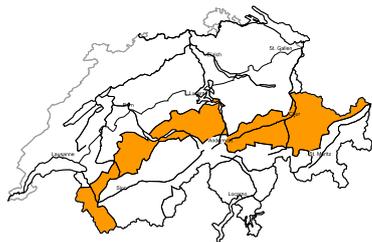


5 very high



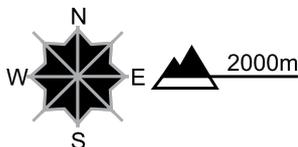
region B

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. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack and fresh avalanches indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint.

Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

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

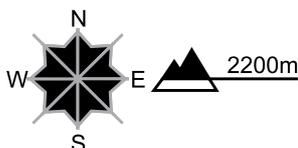
region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Additionally avalanches can also penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. Whumpung 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 in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

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

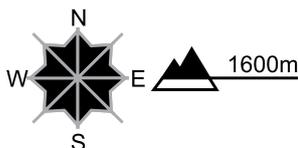
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



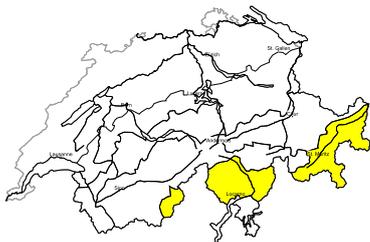
Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

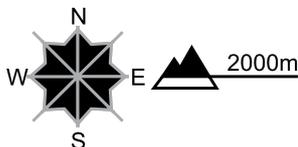
Some full-depth avalanches and snow slides are possible in particular at intermediate altitudes.

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.

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 31.12.2014, 17:00

Snowpack

During the last few days there has been persistent snowfall down to low lying areas in northern and eastern regions. In the eastern regions of central Switzerland there is 50 cm of snow. In the valleys of Visp and in the Engadine at 2000 m, there is maximum 50 cm of fresh fallen snow.

In northern regions, the new fallen layers of snow which are to some extent quite deep have settled and consolidated incrementally over this last week. At high altitudes in all regions, fresh snowdrift accumulations have formed which can be easily triggered as a result of strong northerly winds. On Wednesday, numerous avalanches were triggered by persons in outlying terrain. More than anywhere else in those areas where there is only very little snow, avalanches can release in the old snow cover. The old snowpack is most favourably structured on the southern flank of the Alps.

As a result of intense daytime warming on New Year's Day, the likelihood of avalanches triggering is expected to increase somewhat during the course of the day.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 31.12.2014

In eastern regions there was light snowfall down to low lying areas until about midday. In northern regions, high fog prevailed to begin with which extended to an upper borderline at 2000 m. During the course of the day it turned increasingly sunny. In western and southern regions it was sunny for the most part.

Fresh snow

In the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in Praetigau, there was 10 to 20 cm of new fallen snow; in the central sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in remaining northern Grisons, there was approximately 5 cm of snowfall. The overall total of fresh fallen snow between Monday morning and Wednesday midday amounted to:

- eastern Prealps, Alpstein-Alvier, Liechtenstein, lower Praetigau: 50 to 80 cm
- remaining northern flank of the Alps east of the Reuss, Flims, upper Praetigau: 30 to 50 cm
- northern Bernese Alps, central sector of northern flank of the Alps west of the Reuss, remaining regions of northern Grisons, Lenzerheide, Albulatal: 15 to 30 cm
- elsewhere, 5 to 15 cm; on the southern flank of the Alps it remained dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in western and southern regions and -8 °C in eastern regions

Wind

Moderate to strong velocity northeasterly winds, blowing at storm velocity in high alpine regions

Weather forecast through Thursday, 1.1.2015

In the mountains it will be sunny above approximately 1200 m. It will become significantly milder and winds are expected to slacken off.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

Temperatures will continue to rise: at midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in northwestern regions and -2 °C in southeastern regions.

Wind

During the night, moderate strength northeasterly winds will prevail, blowing at light strength during the day.

Outlook through Saturday, 3.1.2015

On Berchtold's Day it will initially be sunny in northern regions. During the course of the day, clouds are expected to move in from the northwest and during the afternoon light precipitation will set in. The snowfall level will temporarily climb up to 1500 to 1800 m. South of the Main Alpine Ridge it will be predominantly sunny. On Saturday in northern regions skies will be overcast by and large accompanied by snowfall above approximately 1000 m. In the Valais and in southern regions, it will be to some extent sunny.

The danger of dry avalanches is expected to diminish on Friday, but can increase again somewhat from region to region on Saturday. The hazards of sluffs and full depth wet snowslides will increase on Friday as a result of the rainfall.