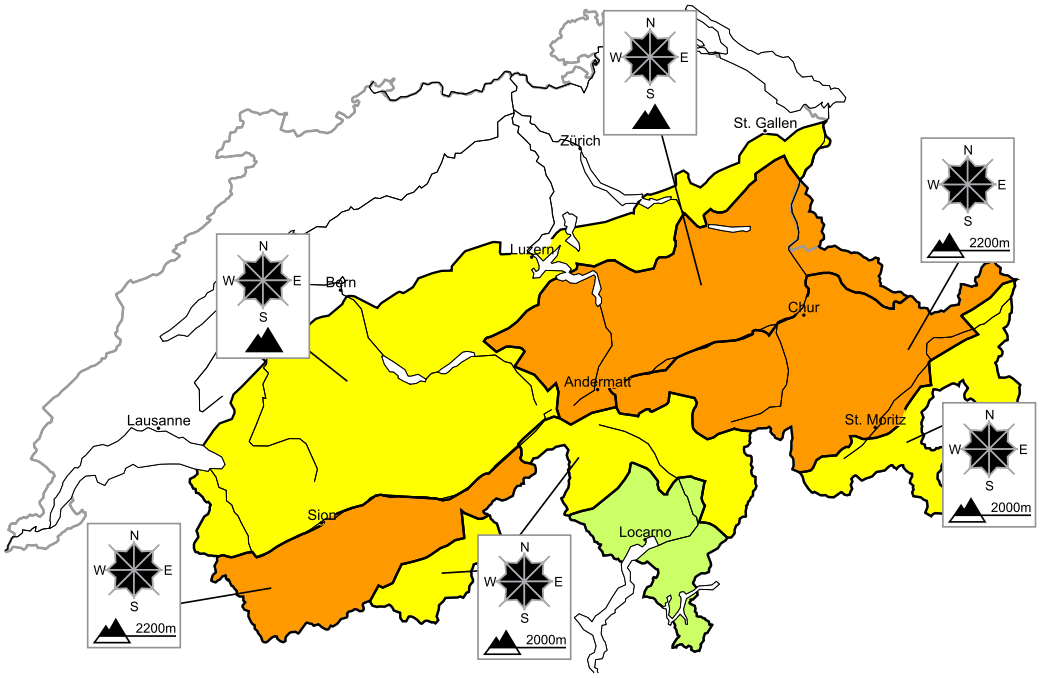
Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 3.1.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 3.1.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

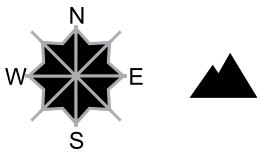
updated on 3.1.2015, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind sometimes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on steep west to north to south facing slopes above approximately 2000 m and adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be avoided.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

As a consequence of the rain more frequent full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. This applies in all aspects and in particular at low and intermediate altitudes. Slides can occur on cut slopes.

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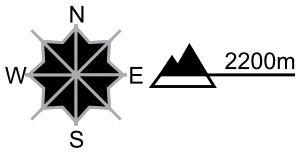
region B — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



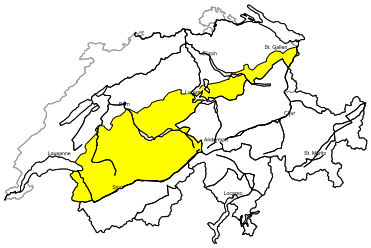
Danger description

Avalanches can in particular be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size in isolated cases. They can be released easily. Whumpfing 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.
The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

Wet avalanches

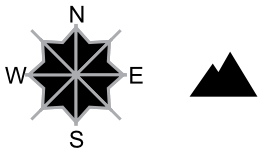
As a consequence of the rain mostly small moist snow slides are to be expected. This applies in particular on very steep slopes at intermediate altitudes.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



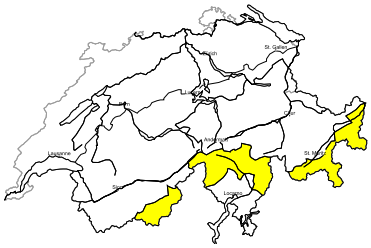
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind sometimes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form, this applies in particular in the afternoon. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed. In the afternoon danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

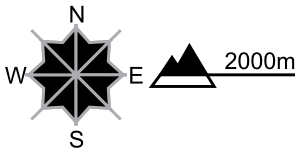
As a consequence of the rain mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. This applies in all aspects and in particular at low and intermediate altitudes.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in particular be released in near-surface layers of the snowpack. Mostly they are small but in some cases easily released. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.
The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

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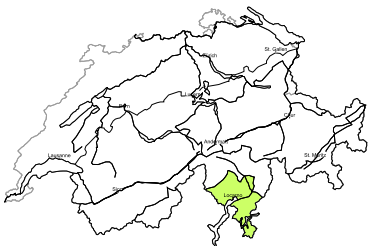
region E

Level 1, low



Favourable situation

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 2.1.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

The layers of new fallen snow which fell in the final week of the year, and which in many places are quite deep, have settled and consolidated in northern regions, more than anything else due to the influence of milder temperatures. At high altitudes the snow cover currently evidences heavy indications of wind impact over widespread areas. At high altitudes in particular, layers of fresh fallen and freshly drifted snow have been deposited on top of weak, faceted layers of old snow. Numerous avalanches were triggered in these old snowpack layers by people over the course of the last few days, at particularly high frequency in northern Grisons. The avalanches which were triggered attained impressive size. At intermediate and low altitudes, the snow on steep, grass-covered slopes is sliding in bulk across the ground. This is further encouraged by the rainfall.
On the southern flank of the Alps the snow cover is structured more favourably and is well consolidated over widespread areas. Potential triggerings are most likely to fracture from the layers of the snowpack nearest the upper surface.

Observed weather on Friday, 2.1.2015

Following a night of clear skies in the Swiss Alps, cloud cover moved in from the northwest over the course of the morning. In the afternoon along the northern flank of the Alps, precipitation set in. The snowfall level was between 1500 and 2000 m.

Fresh snow
Northern flank of the Alps: just a few centimeters

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in northern and +6 °C in southern regions

Wind
The northwesterly wind will gain in strength, blowing predominantly at light to moderate strength but at high altitude and in pass areas at strong velocity.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 3.1.2015

In northern regions on Friday night and during the morning on Saturday, it will be temporarily dry accompanied by bright intervals. Around midday, precipitation is expected to set in. The snowfall level will be between 1600 and 2200 m. In southern regions it will be sunny for the most part.

Fresh snow
- Central and eastern sectors of northern flank of the Alps: 10 to 20 cm
- Western sector of northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons: 5 to 10 cm
- Remaining regions: less than 5 cm; on the southern flank of the Alps it will remain dry.

Temperature
Midday temperature at 2000 m, between +2 °C in western and southern regions and 0 °C in eastern regions

Wind
Strong velocity winds will prevail, intermittently blowing at storm strength, from west to northwest

Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 3 January 2015

Outlook through Monday, 5.1.2015

Sunday

In northern regions skies will be heavily overcast for the most part and precipitation is anticipated. The snowfall level is expected to drop from approximately 1600 m down to low lying areas. The northwesterly wind strength will persist at strong to storm velocities. During the afternoon, bright intervals are expected in western regions. In southern regions it will be sunny as a result of northerly winds. The avalanche danger is expected to increase more than anywhere else in the major areas of precipitation in the north.

Monday

As was already the case previously in the remaining regions, it will turn increasingly sunny in eastern regions as well, and become somewhat warmer. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.