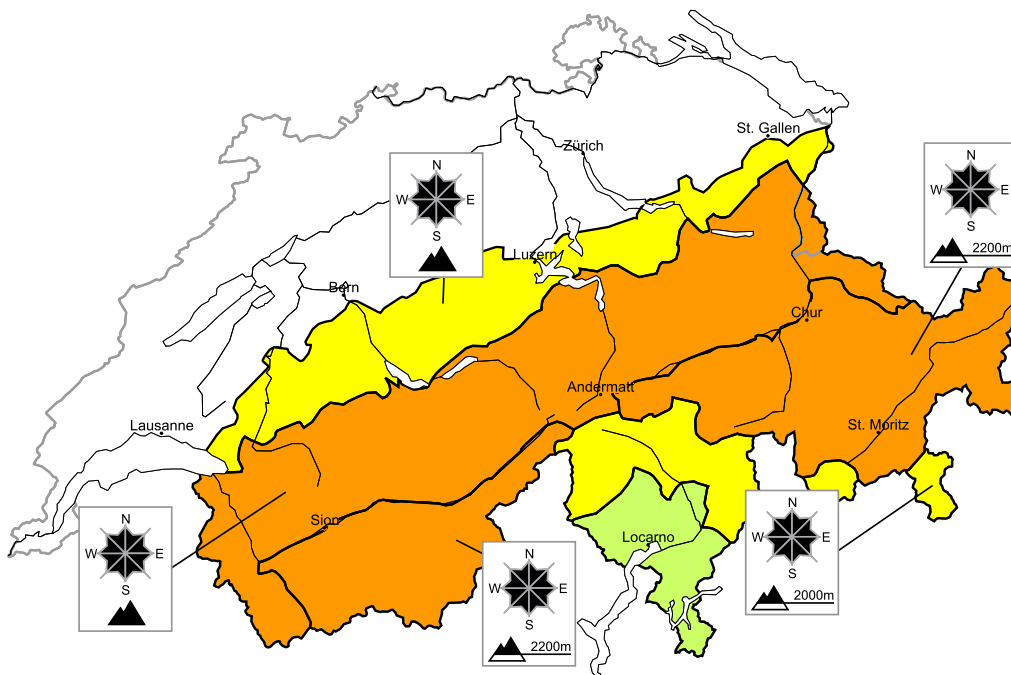


Considerable danger of dry and wet avalanches will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 4.1.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 4.1.2015, 17:00

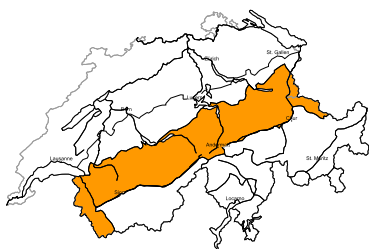
Avalanche danger

updated on 4.1.2015, 08:00



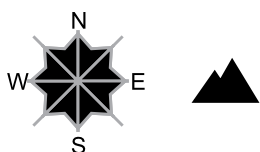
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. This applies in all aspects and in particular at low and intermediate altitudes. Slides can occur on cut slopes. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered. The danger of wet avalanches will decrease during the day.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

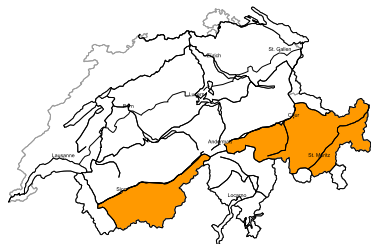
3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, fresh snow and 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. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. Natural avalanches are possible especially in northern Grisons and in Lower Engadine.

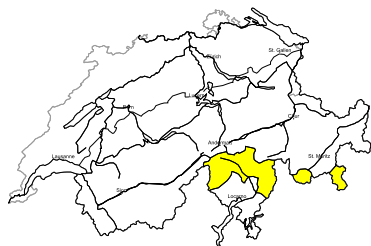
In addition, sometimes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized wet avalanches are to be expected. This applies in particular on very steep slopes at intermediate altitudes. The danger of wet avalanches will decrease during the day.

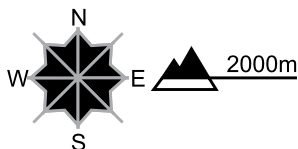
region C

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.

Wet avalanches

Individual moist snow slides are possible. This applies in particular on very steep slopes at intermediate altitudes.

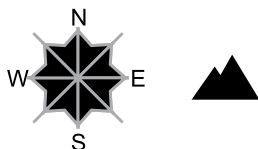
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wet and full-depth avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In all aspects mostly small full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. As the temperature drops there will be a gradual decrease in the danger of wet avalanches in the afternoon.

region E

Level 1, low





Snow drifts

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Fresh snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.


Danger levels

 1 low

 2 moderate

 3 consider.

 4 high

 5 very high



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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 3.1.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of mild temperatures as the calendar switched to the new year, together with Friday's light rainfall, the snow cover has moistened all the way up to high altitudes of approximately 2200 m, on south facing slopes higher still. During the night, a crust formed on the surface.

In the regions north of the Main Alpine Ridge, at high altitudes more than anywhere else, recent layers of fresh fallen snow were deposited on top of an old snowpack which is full of faceted, loosely packed crystals and also riddled with crusts. These layers are especially prevalent in the indicated regions of the Valais and Grisons, where in some places avalanches can easily be triggered from these deeply embedded layers. On the northern flank of the Alps in particular, the snowpack on steep, grass-covered slopes at intermediate and low altitudes is sliding in bulk across the ground. This tendency will now be enhanced still further by the rainfall. At high altitudes and in high alpine regions, loosely packed snow is being transported by strong northwesterly winds.

On the southern flank of the Alps the snow cover is structured more favourably; it is well consolidated over widespread areas. It evidences heavy marks from the northerly winds. Potential triggerings there will tend to fracture in the uppermost layers of the snowpack more than anywhere else.

Observed weather on Saturday, 3.1.2015

Following a night of clear skies, cloud cover rapidly moved in from the northwest during the early morning hours. Around midday on the northern flank of the Alps precipitation gradually set in.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

Midday temperature at 2000 m, between +2 °C in northwestern and +5 °C in southern regions

Wind

Winds shifted from northwesterly to westerly and were blowing at moderate to strong velocity over widespread areas.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 4.1.2015

On Saturday night, intensive precipitation is anticipated, most of all on the northern flank of the Alps. The snowfall level will be between 1600 and 2200 m to start with. By the time the precipitation comes to an end around midday, the snowfall level in western regions is expected to drop down to approximately 1000 m; in eastern regions down to low lying areas. Subsequently it will turn increasingly sunny towards the west.

On the southern flank of the Alps it will be predominantly sunny. Light snowfall will press its way over the Main Alpine Ridge.

Fresh snow

- Regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, furthestmost western Lower Valais, northern Praetigau: 30 to 50 cm
- Remaining parts of the Valais, as well as northern and central Grisons: 10 to 20 cm
- Remaining regions: less than 10 cm; in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri it will remain dry.

Temperature

Temperatures are expected to drop significantly, at 2000 m reaching -4 °C in western and southern regions and -10 °C in eastern regions by midday.

Wind

Strong velocity to storm-strength northwesterly winds. In Ticino, the strong northerly winds will reach down to the valley floors.

Outlook through Tuesday, 6.1.2015

The avalanche danger is expected to diminish incrementally.

Monday

To begin with in eastern regions, a small amount of residual cloud will linger. Subsequently, as was already the case in the remaining regions, it will turn sunny. The northwesterly wind will gradually slacken off. In southern regions it will be sunny, but still windy.

Tuesday

It will be sunny and milder in the Swiss Alps. In northern regions the upper ceiling for the high fogbanks will be at approximately 1000 m.