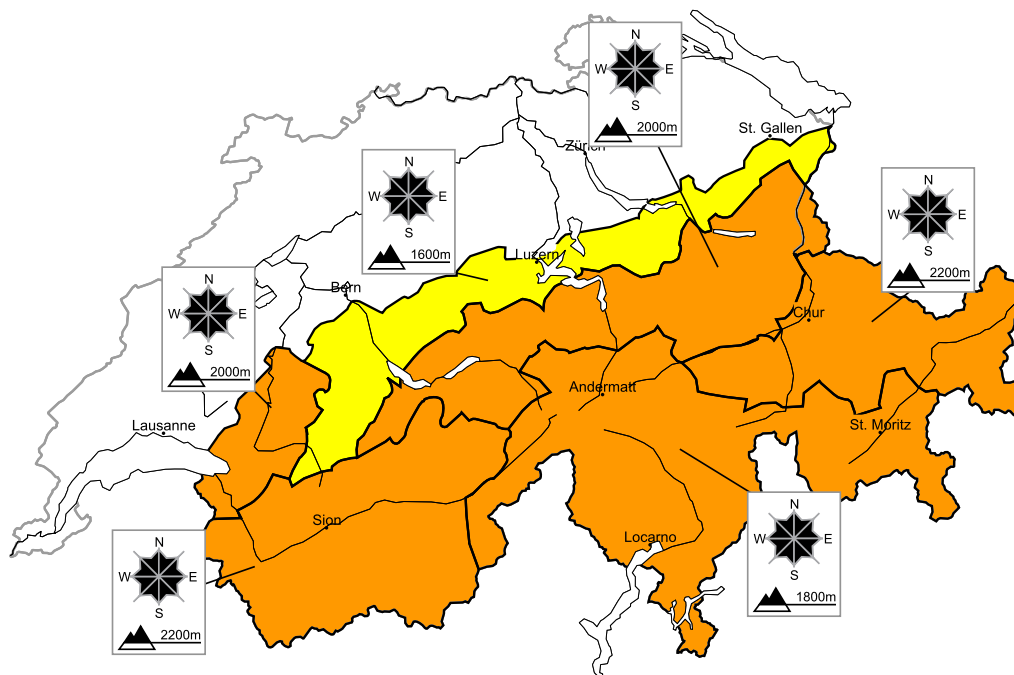


# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 18.1.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 18.1.2015, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 18.1.2015, 08:00



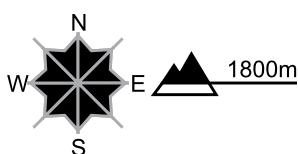
### region A

### Level 3, considerable



#### Fresh snow and snow drifts

##### Avalanche prone locations



##### Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last two days are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. On very steep slopes individual natural avalanches are possible. The conditions are critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes. Restraint is advisable on this first sunny day.

#### Full-depth avalanches

On cut and grassy slopes mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

#### Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

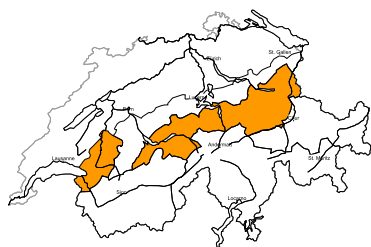
4 high

5 very high



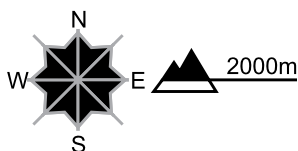
**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



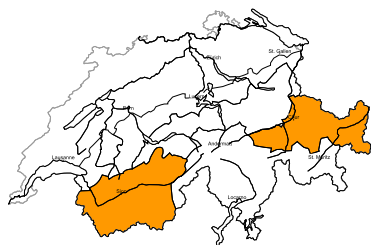
**Danger description**

The fresh snow of yesterday is loosely bonded. On extremely steep slopes mostly small loose snow avalanches are to be expected. On Friday snow drift accumulations have formed, especially on north and east facing slopes. These are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. They can still be released in some cases.

Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

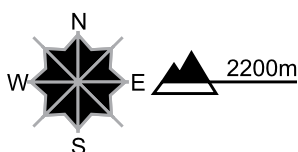
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. Additionally avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size, especially in little used backcountry terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

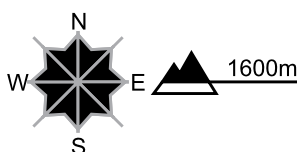
**region D**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The fresh snow of the last few days is very loosely bonded at elevated altitudes. On extremely steep slopes small loose snow avalanches are to be expected. The snow drift accumulations of Friday are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. They can be released in isolated cases.

Avalanches can in some places 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. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised also in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.1.2015, 17:00

### Snowpack

The new fallen and newly drifted snows from Friday and Saturday were deposited on top of a snowpack surface which over widespread areas at high altitudes bore heavy marks from wind and rain impact. As a result of strong southerly winds and snowfall, large-sized snowdrift accumulations have formed, particularly on the southern flank of the Alps and in southern Grisons, which are prone to triggering. These drifted masses are gradually stabilising. In all regions of the Swiss Alps, the snowdrift accumulations which were brought about by the southerly winds have, now that the winds have shifted to westerly, been blanketed over by fresh fallen snow. This makes them difficult to recognize.

Deeper down inside the old snow cover, crusts and layers of weak, faceted snow crystals lie embedded. These layers are least favourably structured in the Valais and in Grisons. In those regions, avalanches can fracture deep down inside the old snowpack. On the northern flank of the Alps the medium-level and more deeply embedded lowermost layers inside the snowpack are structured somewhat more favourably. The layering on the southern flank of the Alps is predominantly favourable. In southern regions, fractures down deep in the snowpack are possible only in isolated cases.

### Observed weather on Saturday, 17.1.2015

Skies have been heavily overcast. In all regions of the Swiss Alps there was snowfall, most intensive in southern regions and in the Upper Engadine. The snowfall level in southern regions was below 1000 m; in northern regions, the snowfall level dropped during the course of the night from 1500 m down to low lying areas. In the afternoon, the snowfall slackened off from the west and south.

#### Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered above 1800 m:

- central sector of southern flank of the Alps, Main Alpine Ridge from the Rheinwald region into the Bernina region: 70 to 100 cm
- immediately bordering regions of central Grisons, remaining parts of Gotthard region, Upper Engadine: 40 to 70 cm
- northern flank of the Alps from Grindelwald to Liechtenstein, remaining parts of Grisons, furthestmost western parts of Lower Valais and the Valais part of the Main Alpine Ridge: 20 to 40 cm
- remaining regions: 10 to 20 cm

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in northern and western regions and -3 °C in eastern and southern regions

#### Wind

During the night on the Main Alpine Ridge and in southern regions, there were moderate to strong velocity southerly winds. Elsewhere, blowing at light to moderate strength from the west.

### Weather forecast through Sunday, 18.1.2015

During the night in northern and eastern regions, the final thrust of snowfall will round to a close. In western and southern regions it will be sunny during the morning hours, later on become partially overcast. In eastern regions it will become quite sunny after the residual clouds have dispersed.

#### Fresh snow

In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, as well as in Grisons, only a few centimeters. Elsewhere it will remain dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -7 °C

#### Wind

Light to moderate velocity winds from southwesterly to westerly directions

**Outlook** through Tuesday, 20.1.2015

During the course of the day on Monday, clouds will move in from the west. On Tuesday, it will be partly sunny in eastern and southern regions; elsewhere, it will be overcast. In northern and western regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. The avalanche danger is expected to diminish in all regions of the Swiss Alps, significantly so in the areas where most precipitation has occurred over the last few days.