Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 19 January 2015

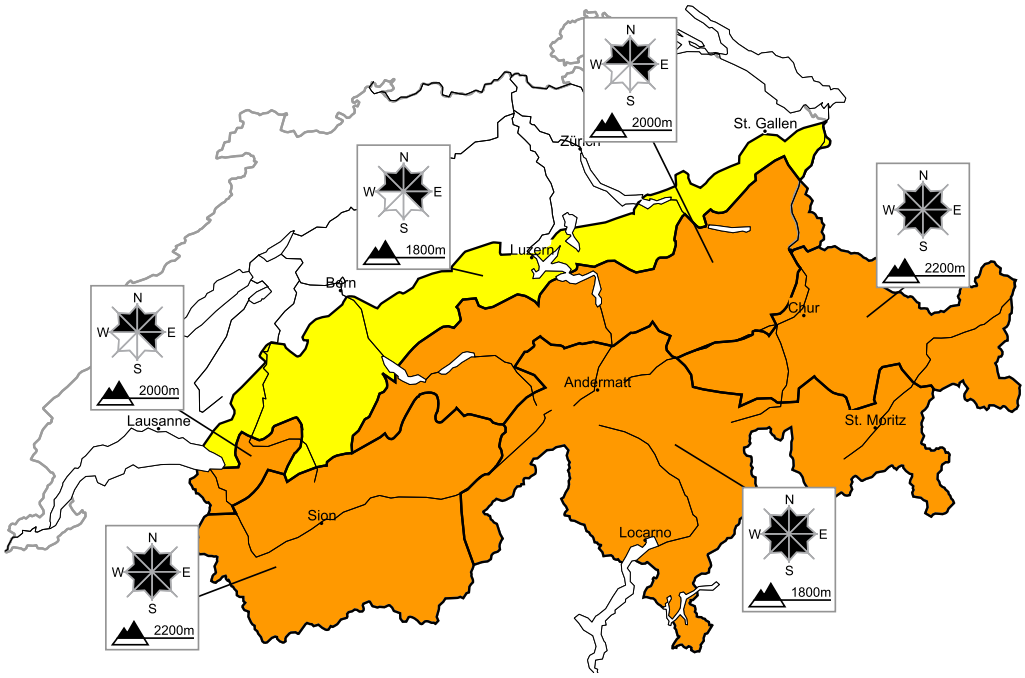
19.1.2015, 07:48

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Outside marked and open pistes a critical avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 19.1.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 19.1.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

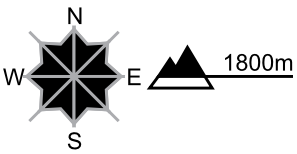
updated on 19.1.2015, 08:00



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 few days are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released by people and reach dangerously large size. Remote triggering is possible in isolated cases, especially in Grisons. Hardly any more natural avalanches are to be expected. The conditions are critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

Full-depth avalanches

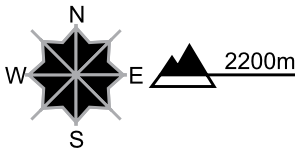
On cut and grassy slopes individual mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

Danger levels 1 low | 2 moderate | 3 consider. | 4 high | 5 very high

region B — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

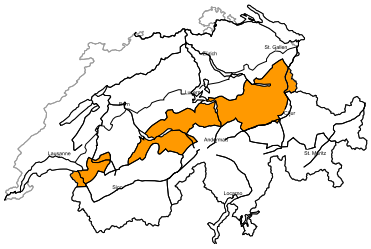
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

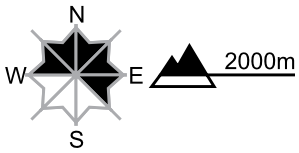
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size, especially in little used backcountry terrain. Remote triggering is possible in isolated cases. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Individual natural avalanches are still possible, especially in central Grisons. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

region C — Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



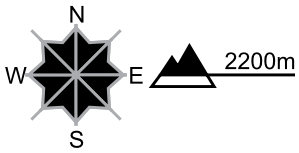
Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. Especially adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas easily released snow drift accumulations will form. 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.

region D — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are prone to triggering. In isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size, especially in little used backcountry terrain as well as in southern Valais. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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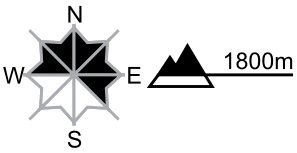
region E

Level 2, moderate

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can still be released in some cases. This applies in particular on extremely steep slopes as well as adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. Mostly avalanches are rather small. 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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 18.1.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

The layers of new fallen and newly drifted snow from Friday and Saturday, many of which are quite deep, were today still prone to triggering in Grisons more than anywhere else. Avalanches triggered naturally in isolated cases; were frequently triggered artificially; were unleashed by persons; or occasionally were even remotely triggered. The avalanches which were released attained large size in isolated cases.
In areas adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas, as well as in those regions particularly exposed to foehn wind influence, small-sized, but very easily triggerable snowdrift accumulations formed today as a result of the intermittently moderate southerly winds.
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 deeper down inside the old snowpack. On the northern flank of the Alps the medium-level and still more deeply embedded lowermost layers within the snowpack are structured somewhat more favourably. On the southern flank of the Alps the layering is good for the most part; avalanches which fracture down inside the old snowpack are possible there only in isolated cases.

Observed weather on Sunday, 18.1.2015

During the night there was intermittent snowfall. During the morning hours, skies swiftly cleared up from the west. Over the course of the day it became sunny for the most part.

Fresh snow

During the night in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, as well as on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, there was an additional 10 to 20 cm of snowfall. All in all, between Thursday evening and Sunday morning, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- central sector of southern flank of the Alps, Main Alpine Ridge from the Rheinwald region into the Bernina region: 80 to 120 cm
- immediately bordering regions of central Grisons, northern flank of the Alps between Hasliberg and Elm, Valais part of Main Alpine Ridge east of the Matterhorn, remaining parts of Upper Engadine: 50 to 90 cm
- remaining parts of northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Grisons, westernmost Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm; from place to place as much as 50 cm
- remaining parts of the Valais: 10 to 20 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -7 °C

Wind

Predominantly light winds, blowing intermittently at moderate strength in areas adjacent to ridgelines and in high alpine regions, from the southwest

Weather forecast through Monday, 19.1.2015

Skies will be only partially clear during the night. Tomorrow during the morning hours it will still be quite sunny, particularly in eastern regions. Elsewhere, clouds are expected to move from the west into all regions of the Swiss Alps. In the furthermost western regions, a small amount of snowfall is possible during the afternoon.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C

Wind

In high alpine regions and in the western Prealps: moderate southwesterly winds. Elsewhere winds will be light by and large.

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Outlook through Wednesday, 21.1.2015

On both days, skies will be variably cloudy. In western and southern regions more than anywhere else, a small amount of intermittent snowfall is anticipated. The avalanche danger can be expected to diminish incrementally.