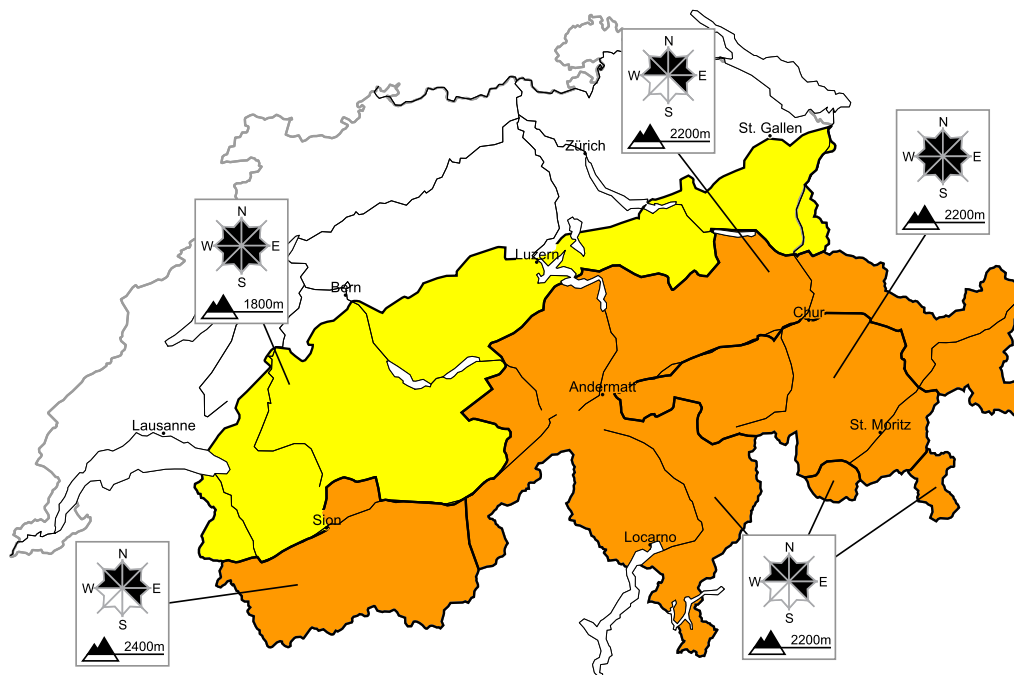


Outside marked and open pistes a precarious avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 20.1.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 20.1.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 20.1.2015, 08:00



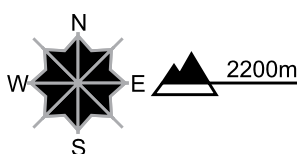
region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be triggered in deep layers and reach dangerously large size, especially in little used backcountry terrain. Remote triggering is possible in isolated cases. The avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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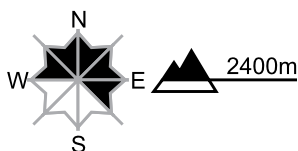
region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

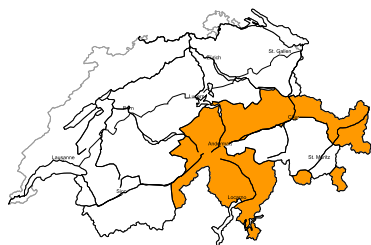


Danger description

Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular in little used backcountry terrain. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Fresh snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular at high altitudes and in high Alpine regions. They are mostly only small but can be released easily. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

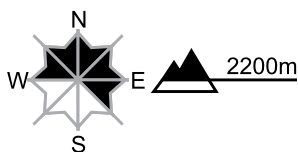
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, 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. Avalanches can reach medium size in isolated cases, especially in little used backcountry terrain. Caution is to be exercised at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Fresh snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular at high altitudes and in high Alpine regions. They are mostly only small but can be released easily. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

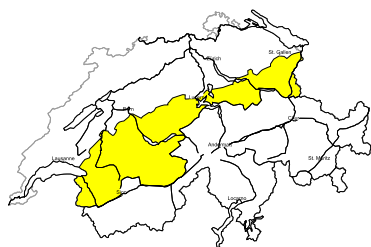
Full-depth avalanches

On cut and grassy slopes individual mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m. This applies especially on the northern flank of the Alps, in Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps.



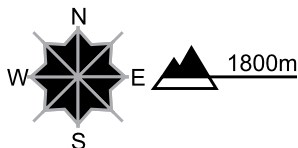
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some places be released, but they will be small in most cases. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas and at transitions into gullies and bowls. They will increase with altitude.

Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep, little used west, north and east facing slopes on the northern Alpine ridge. Backcountry touring calls for defensive route selection.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



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Snowpack and weather

updated on 19.1.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

Crusts and weak faceted layers exist deeper in the old snowpack. The bonding of the snowpack is least favourable in Valais and Grisons. In these regions, avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack. The bonding of the middle and deep layers of the snowpack is a little more favourable on the northern flank of the Alps, and mostly good on the southern flank of the Alps. Here, failures can occur within the old snowpack only in isolated instances.

During and after the heavy snowfall in the south on Friday and Saturday, numerous avalanches occurred in central Grisons and Upper Engadine in particular, some of which were large. By Monday reports of further natural avalanches had become rare in these regions as well. Weak layers still existed in the old snowpack, however, so that avalanches can still be released by people.

The southwesterly wind has given rise to small, clearly visible snow drift accumulations at elevated altitudes on the northern Alpine ridge in particular. In many places they are lying on loosely bonded layers and therefore prone to triggering.

Observed weather on Monday, 19.1.2015

The west was very cloudy. Quite sunny weather persisted in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps in the morning, and until the afternoon in Grisons. A little snow fell in some regions, even at low altitudes.

Fresh snow

A few centimetres in some localities

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -6 °C

Wind

Moderate at times on the northern Alpine ridge, but mostly light elsewhere, from the southwest

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 20.1.2015

During the night snow will fall even at low altitudes in the west and south in particular. The morning will be dry everywhere, and brief bright spells will occur as the day progresses; Grisons and the south will be partly sunny.

Fresh snow

- Chablais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps: 10 to 15 cm
- Bernese Alps, Ticino, Moesano: a few centimetres; other regions: largely dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -7 °C

Wind

Moderate in the high Alpine regions, but mostly light elsewhere, from the southwest

Outlook through Thursday, 22.1.2015

Wednesday

In the north, variable cloud but largely dry. Prolonged bright spells in the east and in Valais. In the south cloud will build up and snowfall will commence as the day progresses. At elevated altitudes the southerly wind will strengthen as the day progresses. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.

Thursday

The weather will be very cloudy. Snow will fall in the south in particular, even at low altitudes. The avalanche danger will increase a little in the south, but not change significantly in the other regions.