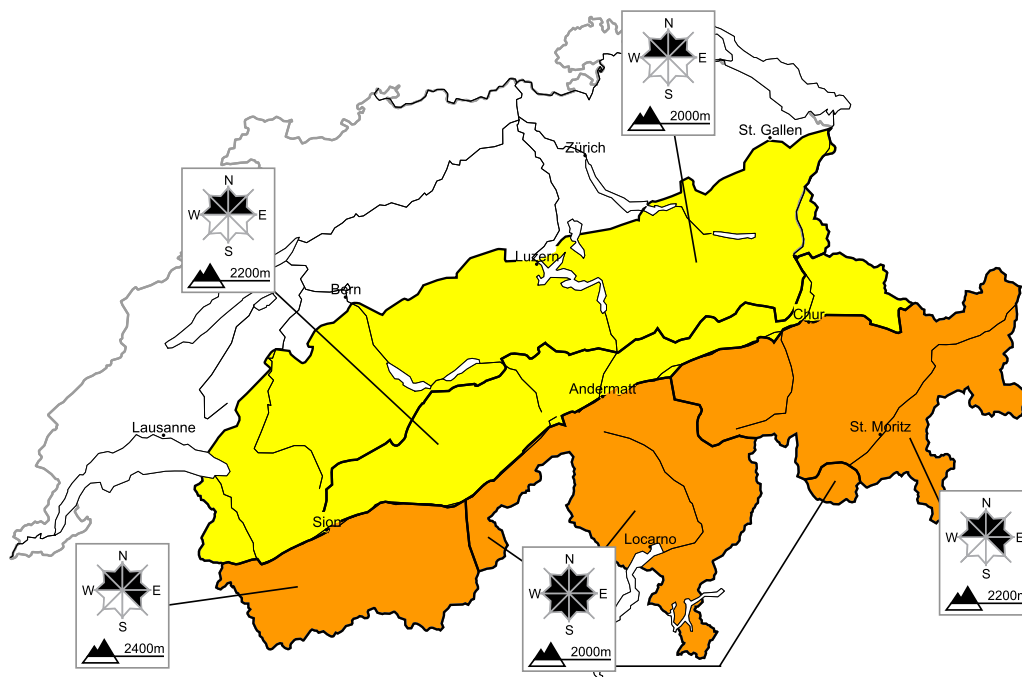


# Weakly bonded old snow in Grisons and in Valais. Fresh snow drifts require caution

Edition: 24.1.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 24.1.2015, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 24.1.2015, 08:00



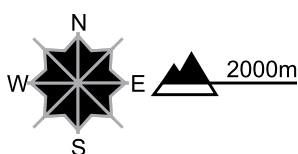
**region A**

**Level 3, considerable**



### Snow drifts

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind extensive snow drift accumulations will form. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Mostly small natural avalanches are possible. Ski touring calls 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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 Avalanche Research SLF  
 www.slf.ch

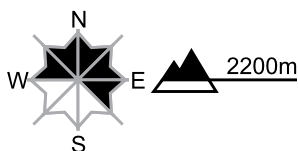
region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

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 barely recognisable. Caution is to be exercised at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example as well as in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Snow drifts

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. They are prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular above approximately 2400 m. They will increase as the day progresses.

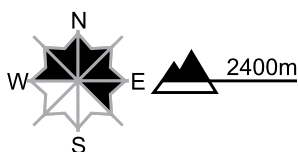
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

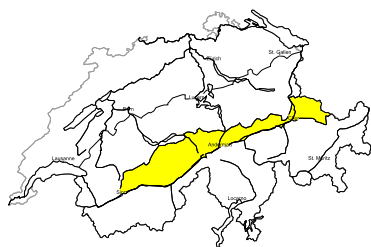
Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular in little used backcountry terrain. The avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Caution is to be exercised at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example as well as in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Snow drifts

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. They are prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular above approximately 2800 m. They will increase as the day progresses.

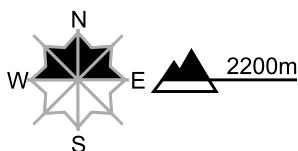
**region D**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**

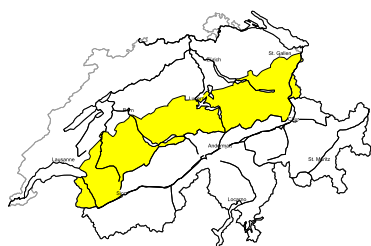


**Danger description**

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on west, north and east facing slopes and adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed in steep terrain. Montana and Prättigau: Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow, especially in little used backcountry terrain. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.

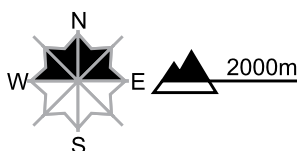
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on west, north and east facing slopes and adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed in steep terrain.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 23.1.2015, 17:00

### Snowpack

The surface of the snow cover on west, north and east facing slopes is loosely packed over widespread areas. In addition, at the altitude marking the upper ceiling of the high fogbanks, that is, at 2000 m in western regions and at 2500 m in eastern regions, surface hoar has formed in many places. Deeper down inside the snowpack, encrusted layers and layers of weak, faceted snow crystals lie embedded. These layers are most unfavourably structured in the Valais and in Grisons. In those regions, avalanches can still be triggered deeper down inside the snowpack. On the northern flank of the Alps, the medium-deep and lowermost layers inside the snowpack are structured somewhat more favourably. On the southern flank of the Alps the snow cover is predominantly good.

On Friday northeasterly winds brought about snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering. In northern regions the drifted masses are generally small sized and were deposited more than anywhere else at high altitudes in areas adjacent to ridgelines and pass areas. In southern regions there was about 30 cm of snowfall on Wednesday. Due to northerly winds which to some extent are blowing at strong velocity, additional, far reaching snowdrift accumulations are expected to form on Saturday.

### Observed weather on Friday, 23.1.2015

Above the high fog it was quite sunny in western regions in particular. The upper ceiling of the fogbanks was at approximately 2000 m in western regions, at approximately 2500 m in eastern regions. In southern regions it turned increasingly sunny during the course of the day.

#### Fresh snow

-

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C in northern regions and -2 °C in southern regions

#### Wind

Light to moderate strength northeasterly winds. In Ticino, moderate strength northerly winds.

### Weather forecast through Saturday, 24.1.2015

In northern regions above approximately 2200 m, it will be quite sunny to begin with. During the afternoon, clouds will swiftly move in from the northwest. In western and northern regions, a few centimeters of snowfall is anticipated which will extend down to low lying areas. In southern regions it will be sunny for the most part, accompanied by high altitude clouds in the afternoon.

#### Fresh snow

-

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -8 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions

#### Wind

- At high altitudes, moderate strength northeasterly winds, shifting to northwesterly during the course of the day
- In Ticino, moderate to strong velocity northerly winds extending down into the valleys

**Outlook** through Monday, 26.1.2015

**Sunday**

Skies are expected to be heavily overcast. In northern regions a small amount of snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas, the greatest amounts falling in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps. At high altitudes strong northerly winds will be blowing in many places. The avalanche danger is expected to increase more than anywhere else in those regions which receive heavier snowfall as well as at high altitudes.

**Monday**

In northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy to begin with. Then during the afternoon, cloud cover will move in from the northwest. In southern regions, it will be quite sunny. It will become somewhat warmer. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.