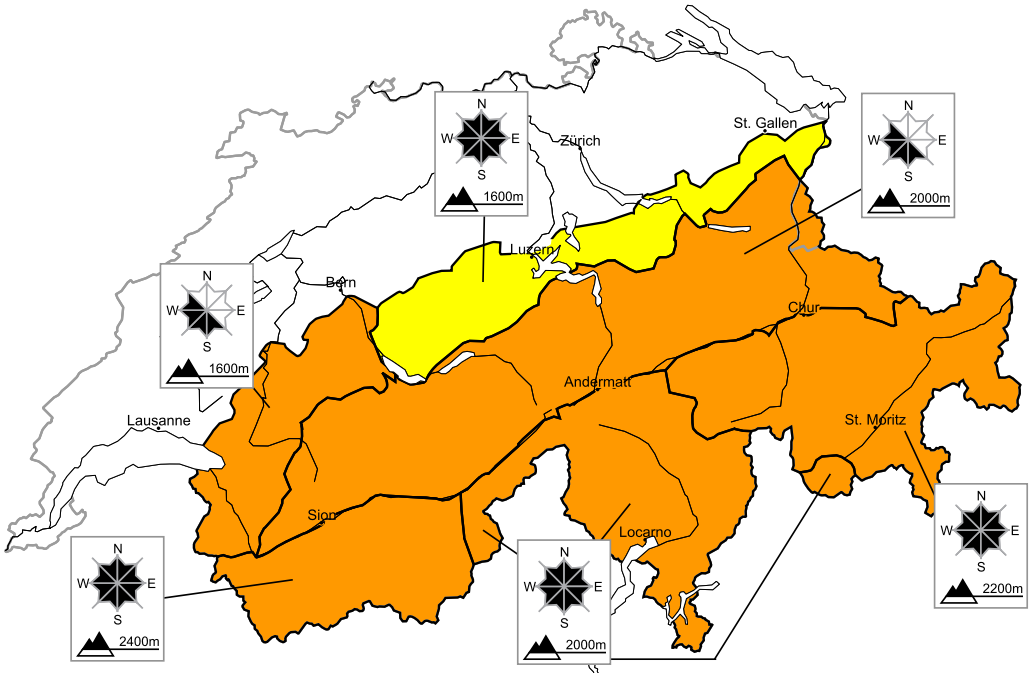
# Strong northerly wind at high altitude: Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 25.1.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 25.1.2015, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

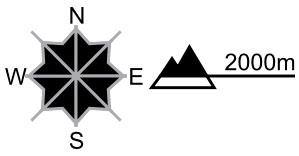
updated on 25.1.2015, 08:00




**region A** | **Level 3, considerable**

### Snow drifts

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

As a consequence of the strong wind extensive snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released easily, even by a single winter sport participant,. Mostly small natural avalanches are possible. Ski touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.



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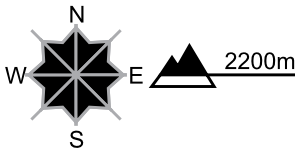
## region B — Level 3, considerable

### Snow drifts, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**



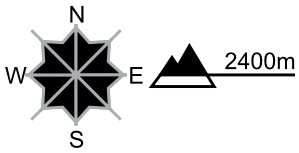

**Danger description**

As a consequence of the strong wind snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular in little used backcountry terrain. This applies in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack as well as in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. The avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

## region C — Level 3, considerable

### Snow drifts, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**



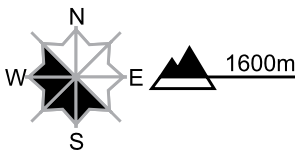

**Danger description**

As a consequence of the strong wind snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular in little used backcountry terrain. This applies in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack as well as in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. The avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

## region D — Level 3, considerable

### Snow drifts

**Avalanche prone locations**



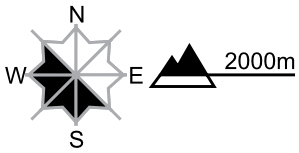

**Danger description**

As a consequence of the strong wind further snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released easily. Older snow drift accumulations are in some cases still prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and barely recognisable. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

## region E — Level 3, considerable

### Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**



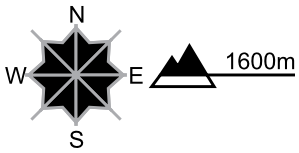

**Danger description**

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind easily released snow drift accumulations will form. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Older snow drift accumulations are in some cases still prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and barely recognisable. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.
Montana and Prättigau: Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular in little used backcountry terrain. This applies in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack as well as in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but barely recognisable.

## region F — Level 2, moderate

### Fresh snow and snow drifts

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind snow drift accumulations will form. These are only small but can be released easily. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed in steep terrain.

# Snowpack and weather

updated on 24.1.2015, 17:00

## Snowpack

The snowpack surface on west, north and east facing slopes is loosely packed over widespread areas. As a result of winds blowing at strong velocity, large-sized snowdrift accumulations are expected to form in all regions of the Swiss Alps at high altitudes in particular. These drifted masses will in many places be deposited on top of surface hoar, which makes them easy to trigger. The snowdrift accumulations which formed on Saturday are in some places already prone to triggering. In northern regions they are predominantly small-sized and were deposited more than anywhere else in areas adjacent to ridgelines and pass areas. In southern regions, particularly at high altitudes, wide ranging snowdrift accumulations formed already during the day on Saturday.
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 be triggered and then fracture deeper down inside the snowpack from place to place. 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 for the most part adequate.

## Observed weather on Saturday, 24.1.2015

In southern regions, and above the upper ceiling of the high fogbanks in northern regions, it was quite sunny to begin with. The uppermost borderline of the fogbanks lay between 1800 m in western regions and 2200 m in eastern regions. During the afternoon, cloud cover moved in from the northwest.

**Fresh snow**

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**Temperature**

At midday at 2000 m, -7 °C in northern regions and -2 °C in southern regions

**Wind**

- Blowing at moderate strength for the most part, intermittently at strong velocity in high alpine regions, from northerly directions.
- In Ticino, moderate to strong velocity northerly winds.

## Weather forecast through Sunday, 25.1.2015

During the night in western and northern regions, snowfall is anticipated over widespread terrain sectors, extending down to low lying areas. In the course of the day in western regions, it will become increasingly sunny. In eastern regions, skies are expected to remain overcast for longer and a few centimeters of snowfall is still anticipated. In southern regions it will be sunny by and large.

**Fresh snow**

- Central and eastern sectors of northern flank of the Alps: 10 to 20 cm; from place to place, more.
- Western sector of northern flank of the Alps, northern and central Grisons: 5 to 10 cm
- Remaining regions: for the most part it will remain dry.

**Temperature**

At midday at 2000 m, -13 °C in northern regions and -10 °C in southern regions

**Wind**

Moderate to strong velocity northerly winds, blowing at storm strength in high alpine regions. In Ticino, strong velocity northerly winds will be felt down to low lying areas.

# Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 25 January 2015



## Outlook through Tuesday, 27.1.2015

On Monday it will be quite sunny to start with, before cloud cover moves in from the northwest. In northern regions a few centimeters of snowfall down to low lying areas is anticipated during the afternoon. On Tuesday, there will be light snowfall in northern regions to begin with. During the course of the day, bright intervals can be expected to appear. In southern regions skies will be variably cloudy but it will remain dry. On both days, strong northerly winds will be blowing in many places at high altitudes. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly. The major hazard stems from snowdrift accumulations as well as, in southern Valais and in Grisons, from the weakened old snow cover itself.