Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 28 January 2015

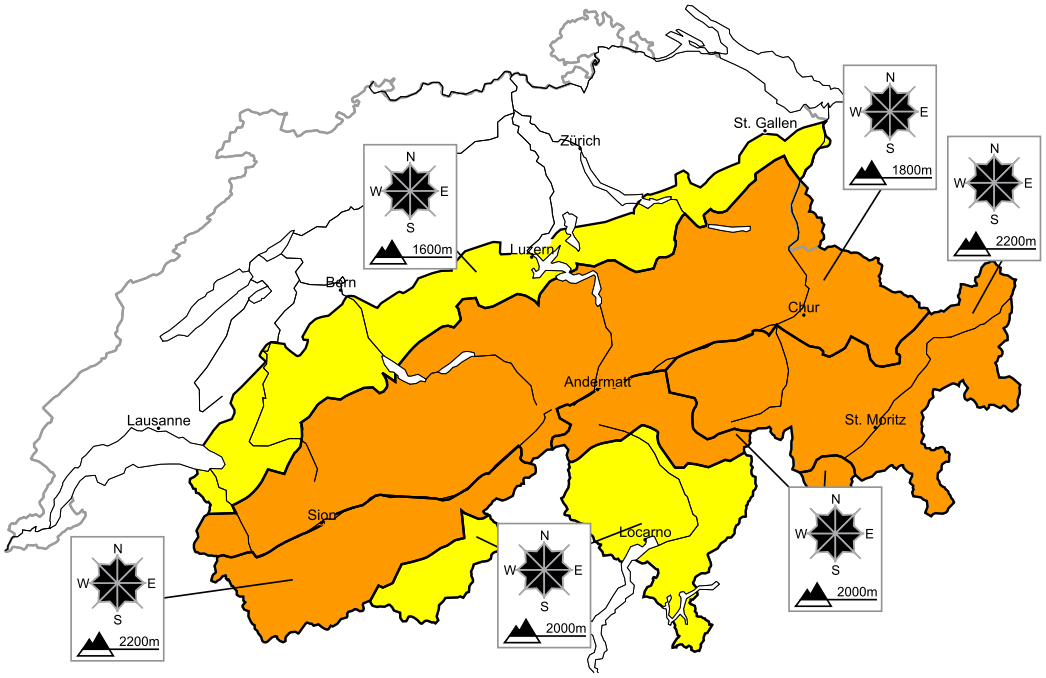
28.1.2015, 07:25

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 28.1.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 28.1.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

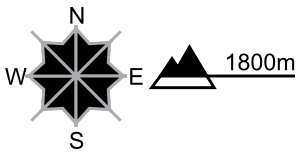
updated on 28.1.2015, 08:00



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 lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized natural avalanches are possible especially in the east, this applies in particular during the night. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

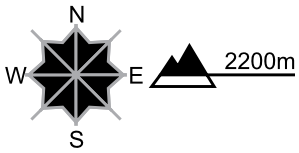
Old snow

Montana, Prättigau, Schanfigg and Davos: Avalanches can additionally 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 barely recognisable.

region B — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



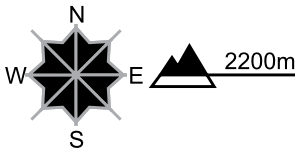
Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released easily, 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. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. They are barely recognisable. The avalanches can reach medium size. 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



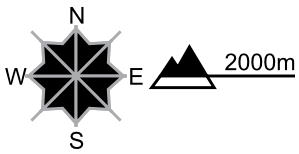
Danger description

During the course of the night further snow drift accumulations will form, in particular at elevated altitudes. These can be released very easily. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular in little used backcountry terrain. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. They are barely recognisable. The avalanches can reach medium size. 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

The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are bonding only slowly with the old snowpack. They can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

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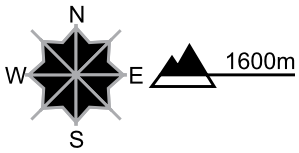
region E — Level 2, moderate

Fresh snow and snow drifts

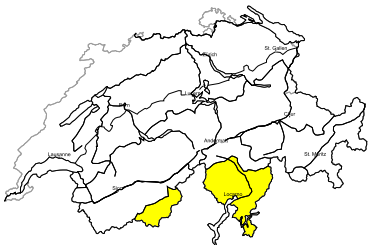
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

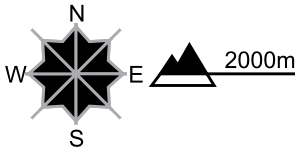
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. The more recent snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed in particular in steep terrain. Careful route selection is required.

region F — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The older snow drift accumulations can be released, especially by large additional loads,. Fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly only small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in particular in very steep terrain. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 27.1.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

In many places the fresh snow and the drifted snow layers of recent days, some of which are deep, are lying on surface hoar or loosely bonded old snow. In many cases they are prone to triggering.
Crusts and weak faceted layers exist deeper in the snowpack. The bonding of the snowpack is least favourable in Valais and Grisons. Here, avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack in some places. 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 favourable on the southern flank of the Alps.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 27.1.2015

On Monday night snow fell over a wide area even at low altitudes except on the southern flank of the Alps. During the day, the weather was mostly cloudy. In the east in particular, some further snow fell. There were bright spells in the south.

Fresh snow

The following amounts of snow fell in the period from Monday evening until Tuesday evening:

- Northern Alpine ridge from Wildstrubel to the Alpstein region, southern Obergoms: 20 to 40 cm, but up to 50 cm in some localities
- Rest of the northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais, rest of the Gotthard region, remaining parts of northern and central Grisons, Lower Engadine north of the Inn: 10 to 20 cm
- Further south: smaller quantities or no snow at all

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -9 °C in the north and -5 °C in the south

Wind

At high altitudes and in the high Alpine regions, moderate to strong from the north, easing in the west during the day

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 28.1.2015

On Tuesday night a little more snow will fall in the east. During the day there will be bright spells in the Alps. In Valais and Ticino it will be fairly sunny. In the evening cloud will build up from the west.

Fresh snow

From Tuesday evening until Wednesday morning the following amounts of snow will fall:

- Eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm
- Central part of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining regions of Grisons: a few centimetres, but none elsewhere

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -8 °C

Wind

During the night in the east, strong from the north; during the day, mostly moderate and becoming westerly

Outlook through Friday, 30.1.2015

Thursday

The weather will be mostly very cloudy. Snow will fall, especially in the west and north. The snowfall level will temporarily rise to approximately 1000 m. The wind will be strong to storm force from the west. The avalanche danger will increase as the day progresses in particular in the west and north.

Friday

In the north it will be changeable with local snow showers. There will be bright spells as well between the showers in the east in particular. It will be fairly sunny in the south. The avalanche situation will remain critical in the west and north in particular.