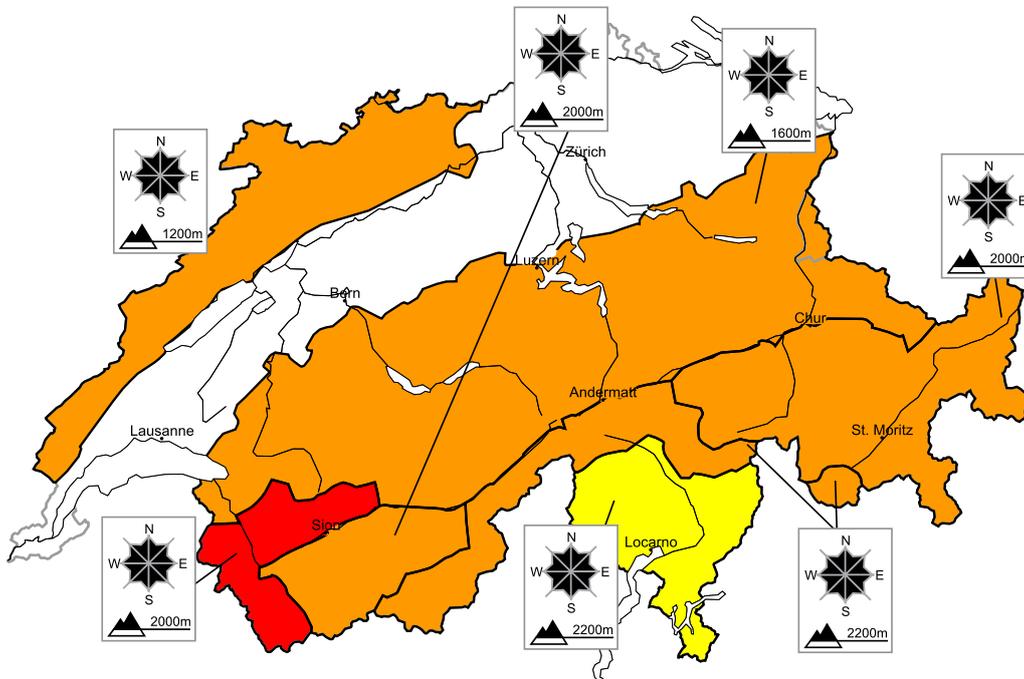


In the west a very critical avalanche situation will prevail

Edition: 29.1.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 29.1.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 29.1.2015, 08:00

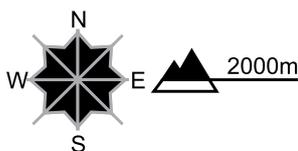


region A **Level 4, high**



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind large snow drift accumulations will form. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are very prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily. Small to medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. In some places avalanches can release the weakly bonded old snow as well and reach large size in isolated cases. Backcountry touring calls for great caution and restraint.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



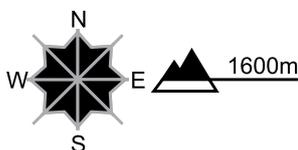
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind large snow drift accumulations will form. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Small to medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

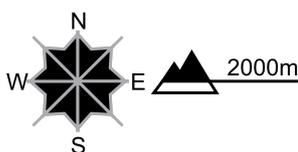
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations 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 dangerously large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for great caution and restraint.

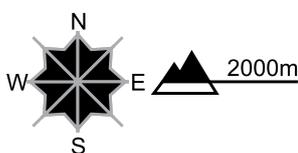
region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

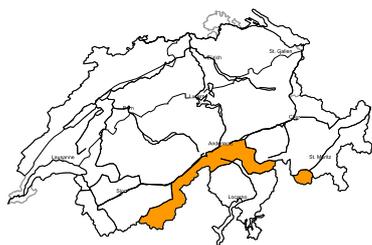


Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released 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. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

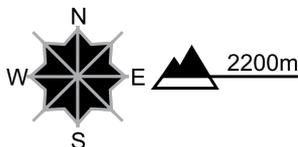
region E

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. They can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

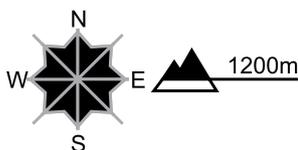
region F

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind easily released snow drift accumulations will form, in the regions exposed to heavier precipitation in particular in the western Jura. The snow drift accumulations are to be found especially in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

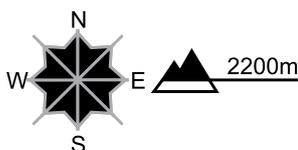
region G

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. Careful route selection is recommended.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 28.1.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong velocity westerly winds and new fallen snow, additional snowdrift accumulations are forming, large-sized drifted masses in some locations of western and northern regions. These accumulations now blanket older snowdrifted masses which were, in turn, frequently deposited on top of an old snowpack surface consisting of layers of faceted crystals or surface hoar.

Deeper down inside the snowpack, crusts and weak, faceted layers of snow lie embedded. The snow structuring is least favourable of all in the Valais and in Grisons. In those regions, avalanches can in some places be triggered and fracture down inside the old snow cover. On the northern flank of the Alps, the intermediate and deeper layers inside the snowpack are layered somewhat more favourably. On the southern flank of the Alps, the structuring is favourable by and large.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 28.1.2015

In the course of Tuesday night, the snowfall came to an end, including in eastern regions. During the day on Wednesday, skies were variably cloudy.

Fresh snow

Between Monday evening and Wednesday morning above approximately 1000 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- Northern sector of Alpine Ridge from Les Diablerets into the Alpstein region, southern Obergoms, northern Grisons: 20 to 40 cm over widespread areas; in the Glarner Alps and in the Alpstein region, as much as 60 cm from place to place.
- Western part of the Jura, remaining sectors of northern flank of the Alps, of the Lower Valais, of the Gotthard region, central Grisons as well as the Engadine north of the Inn: 10 to 20 cm
- Further to the south: less or it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -8 °C

Wind

During the night, moderate to strong velocity winds were blowing from the north. During the day, light to moderate strength winds for the most part, subsequently shifting to northwesterly.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 29.1.2015

On Wednesday night snowfall is expected to set in from the west. The snowfall level will temporarily ascend to approximately 1000 m. In the Alpine valleys, snowfall is expected to extend down to the valley floors. During the course of the day on Thursday the snowfall will temporarily slacken off. In southern regions only a small amount of snowfall is anticipated.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening, the following amounts of new fallen snow are anticipated:

- Western part of the Jura, northern flank of the Alps, furthestmost western part of Lower Valais, northern Valais: 20 to 40 cm over widespread areas
- Remaining parts of the Jura, remaining parts of the Valais, Gotthard region, northern Grisons: 10 to 20 cm
- Further to the south, less

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -8 °C

Wind

In northern regions, and at high altitudes in general, strong to storm velocity westerly winds

Outlook through Saturday, 31.1.2015

Friday

On Thursday night, in western and northern regions more than anywhere else, renewed snowfall is again anticipated. During the day on Friday, skies in northern regions will be variably cloudy, accompanied by snow showers in western regions in particular. In southern regions it will be quite sunny. The avalanche danger levels may possibly increase somewhat further in western and in northern regions. The avalanche situation there is critical. In the remaining regions, the danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Saturday

In northern regions skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by snow showers. In southern regions it will be rather sunny. The avalanche situation is expected to remain at critical levels in western and in northern regions in particular.