Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 30 January 2015

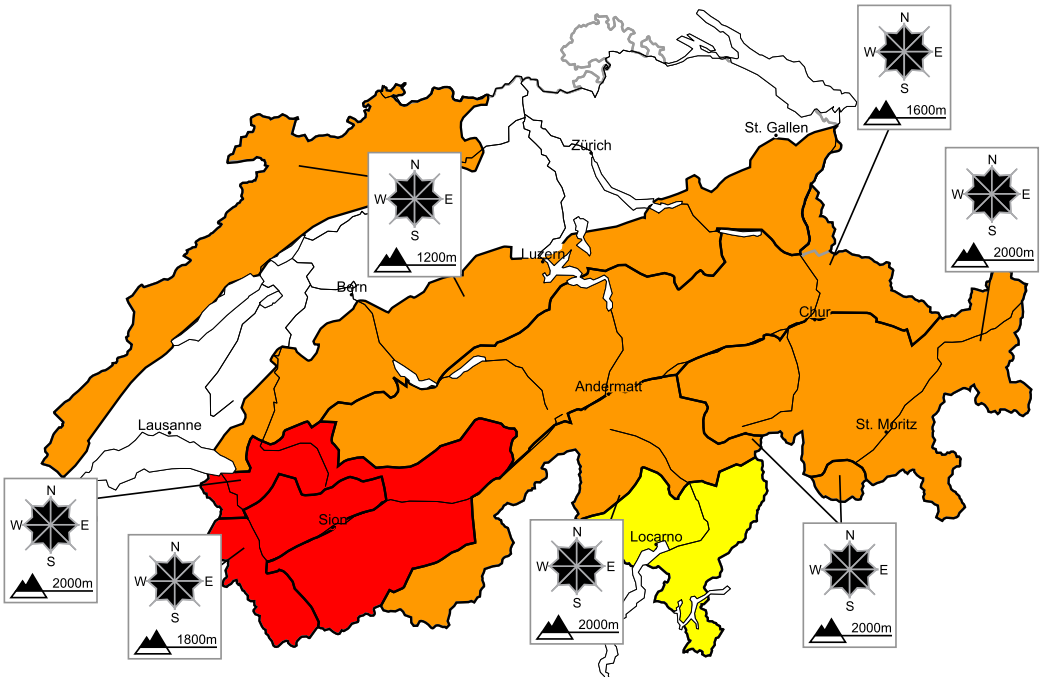
30.1.2015, 07:50

In the west a very critical avalanche situation will prevail

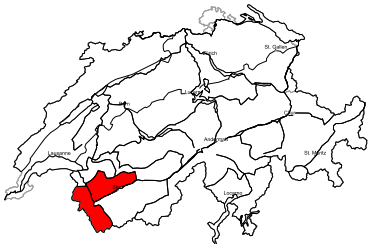
Edition: 30.1.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 30.1.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 30.1.2015, 08:00

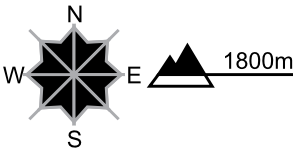


region A — Level 4, high



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 very prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily. Numerous small to medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. In particular from starting zones at higher altitudes large avalanches are possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered. Backcountry touring calls for great caution and restraint.

Danger levels 1 low | 2 moderate | 3 consider. | 4 high | 5 very high

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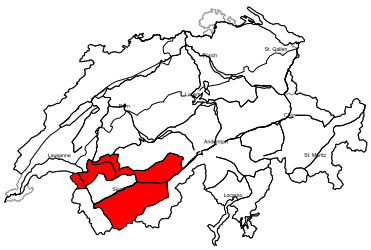
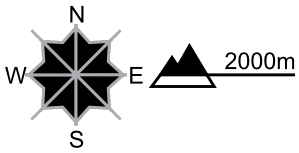
region B — Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

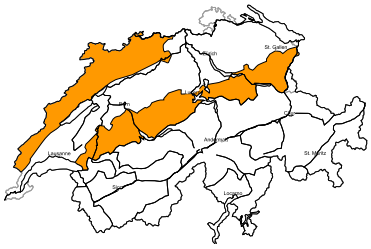
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

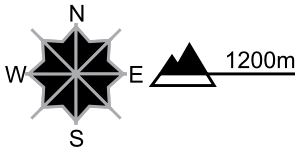
As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind large snow drift accumulations will form. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are very prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily. Small to medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. Individual large avalanches are possible. In particular in the inneralpine regions avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow. Backcountry touring calls for great caution and restraint.

region C — Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



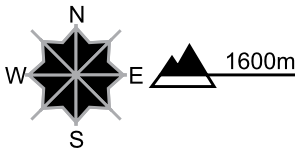
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind further 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 in particular in the west. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

region D — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind further 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 in particular in the west. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

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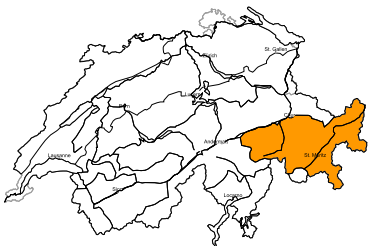
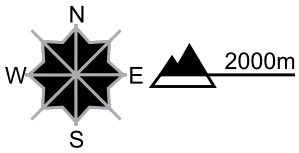
region E — Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



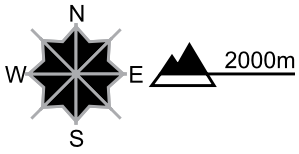
Danger description

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. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

region F — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

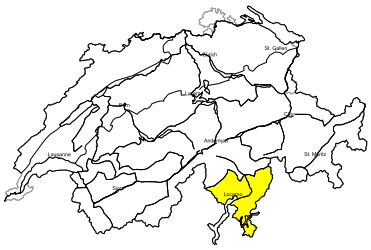
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

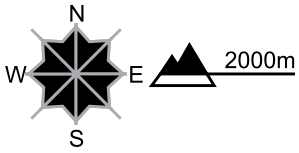
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Snow drift accumulations can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for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

region G — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. As a consequence of the strong northerly wind the avalanche prone locations increase as the day progresses. The more recent snow drift accumulations are to be avoided in particular in very steep terrain. Careful route selection is recommended.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 29.1.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong velocity westerly winds whipping up new fallen snow, further snowdrift accumulations are being formed, in many places of western and northern regions they are large-sized drifted masses. The various layers of snowdrift are poorly bonded with one another and for that reason prone to triggering. In addition, still more recent snowdrift accumulations, some of which are quite deep, have frequently been deposited on top of an unfavourable old snowpack surface or on top of a layer of surface hoar. Avalanches can easily be triggered from such a base, or even release naturally.
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 trigger and then 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 Thursday, 29.1.2015

On Wednesday night in northern regions, snowfall set in which subsequently, on Thursday afternoon, slackened off temporarily. During the night, the snowfall level on the northern flank of the Alps ascended up to 1300 m from place to place, then descended again down to low lying areas during the day. In the furthermost southern regions, bright intervals made themselves felt for brief spells.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening above approximately 1200 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- Northern flank of the Alps, westernmost Lower Valais, northern Grisons: 20 to 40 cm over widespread areas
- Jura, remaining parts of Valais excluding the regions of Zermatt, Saas Fee, Simplon; also, the Bedrettotal, northern Tavetsch, northern Grisons: 10 to 20 cm
- Regions of Zermatt, Saas Fee, Simplon as well as remaining parts of Ticino and Grisons: 5 to 10 cm; in the furthermost south, it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -7 °C

Wind

On the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais, moderate to strong velocity winds, in Grisons and Ticino light to moderate strength winds, from westerly directions

Weather forecast through Friday, 30.1.2015

On Thursday night snowfall is anticipated which in western and northern regions will be heavy. The snowfall level will be approximately 700 m. During the day the snowfall is expected to slacken off. In isolated cases there will be bright intervals, particularly in Grisons and in Ticino.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday evening, the following amounts of new fallen snow are expected:

- Western parts of Jura, northern Alpine Ridge from Trient region to the Aletschhorn, Lower Valais: 30 to 50 cm
- Remaining parts of Jura, remaining sectors of northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Upper Valais: 15 to 30 cm
- Remaining regions: 5 to 15 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -11 °C

Wind

At high altitudes, strong velocity winds will be blowing, during the night from westerly to southwesterly directions, during the day from northwesterly directions.

Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 30 January 2015

Outlook through Sunday, 1.2.2015

On both days skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by snow showers. Winds will slacken off. It will remain cold. The avalanche danger will diminish only incrementally. The avalanche situation for all those participating in backcountry winter sports in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs remains critical.

Saturday