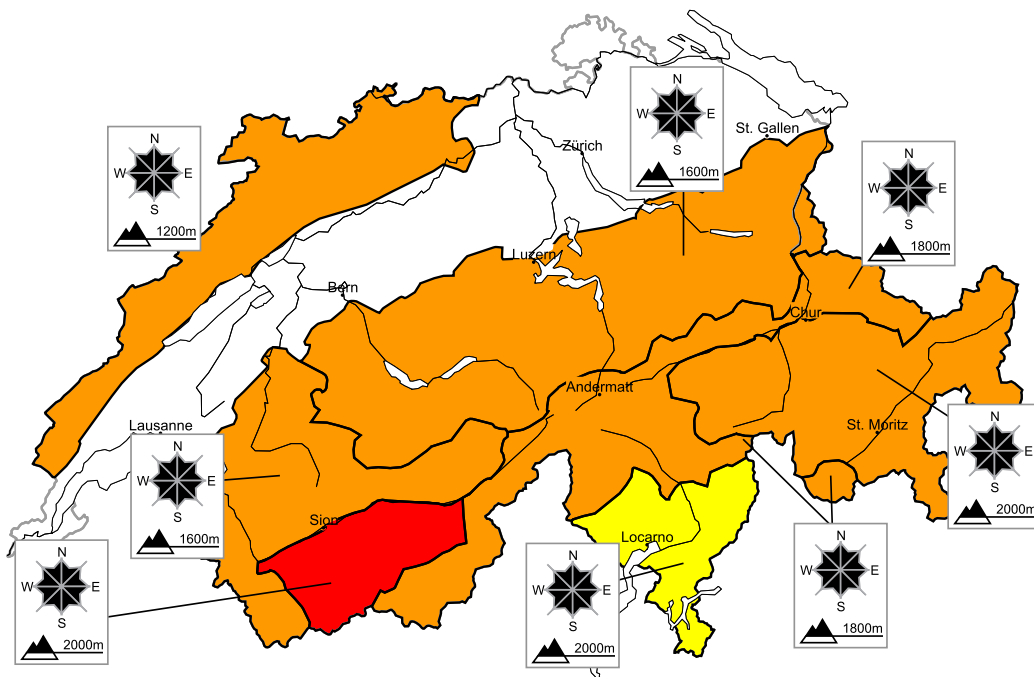


In Valais a very critical avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 31.1.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 31.1.2015, 17:00

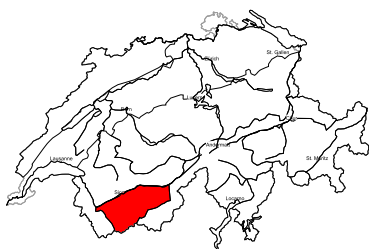
Avalanche danger

updated on 31.1.2015, 08:00



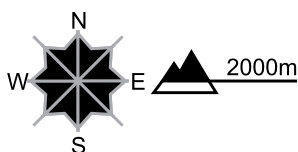
region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



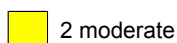
Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are very prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily. Remote triggering is probable. Avalanches can release the weakly bonded old snow as well and reach a dangerous size. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack are a clear indication of a weakly bonded snowpack. Backcountry touring calls for great caution and restraint.

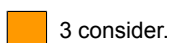
Danger levels



1 low



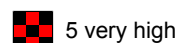
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

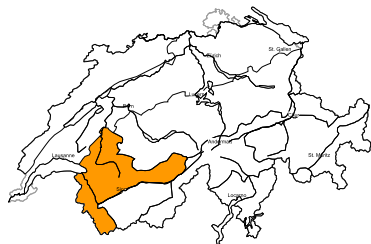


5 very high



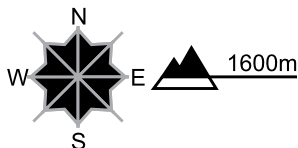
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are very prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily, including medium-sized ones. Individual medium-sized to large natural avalanches are possible as before. Backcountry touring calls for great caution and restraint.

Full-depth avalanches

Mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible on cut and grassy slopes, in particular at low and intermediate altitudes.

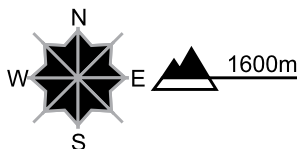
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

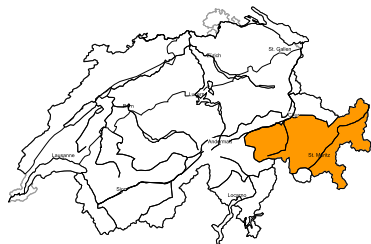


Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. These can in isolated cases reach medium size. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

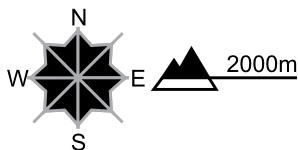
region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

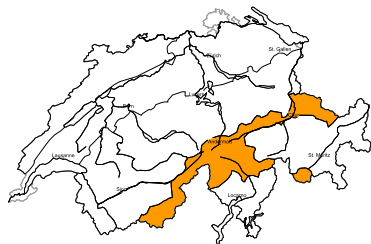


Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. Remote triggering is possible. Avalanches can additionally be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular in little used backcountry terrain. Individual natural avalanches are possible, including medium-sized ones. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack are a clear indication of a weakly bonded snowpack. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

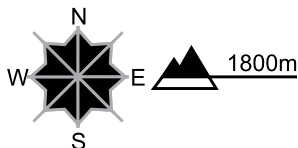
region E

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 cases be released by a single winter sport participant. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. 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.

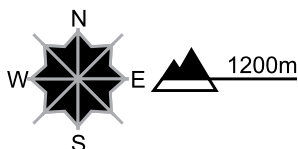
region F

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

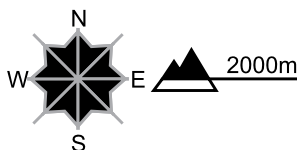
region G

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. The more recent snow drift accumulations are to be avoided in particular in very steep terrain. Careful route selection is recommended.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 30.1.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

In the major areas of precipitation in western and northern regions, the deep layers of new fallen and newly drifted snow are stabilising only very slowly. In addition, the highly varied layers of snowdrift accumulations are often inadequately bonded to one another, which makes them prone to triggering. In all regions of the Swiss Alps, the fresh fallen and freshly drifted snow masses have often been deposited on top of an unfavourable snowpack surface or on top of surface hoar. Avalanches can be easily triggered. If they release they can fracture all the way down to the weak snow cover or to more deeply embedded weak layers inside the snowpack, particularly in southern Valais and in Grisons. On the northern flank of the Alps, intermediate and deeper-down layers inside the snowpack are structured somewhat more favourably. On the southern flank of the Alps, the snow layering is favourable for the most part.

Observed weather on Friday, 30.1.2015

On Thursday night there was snowfall down to low lying areas. The greatest amounts of new fallen snow were registered, once again, in western and in northern regions. During the day on Friday the snowfall slackened off. Only in the furthest southern regions were there bright spells.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Friday evening above approximately 1000m, the following amounts of snowfall were registered:

- western part of Jura, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, northern and furthest western parts of Lower Valais: 50 to 80 cm
- remaining sectors of northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Lower Valais, northern Upper Valais, Bedrettal: 30 to 50 cm
- remaining parts of Jura, southern Upper Valais, remaining parts of northern Ticino, Grisons: 15 to 30 cm over widespread areas. In the furthest south, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -11 °C

Wind

For the most part, strong winds were blowing, during the night from the southwest, during the day from the northwest.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 31.1.2015

Conditions will be variable. On Friday night a small amount of snowfall is expected down to low lying areas. During the day on Saturday there will be isolated bright intervals in central Valais, longer spells of brightness in eastern and southern regions. During the afternoon, renewed snowfall is expected to set in from the west.

Fresh snow

Between Friday evening and Saturday evening, the following amounts of new fallen snow are anticipated:

- western parts of Jura, northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais, Praetigau: 5 to 15 cm; in furthest western parts of Lower Valais as much as 20 cm
- remaining regions: 5 cm; in southern regions it will remain dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -9 °C

Wind

During the night, persistently strong velocity winds from westerly directions, during the day slackening off to light-to-moderate strength

Outlook through Monday, 2.2.2015

Sunday

More than anywhere else in northern regions, snowfall is anticipated. In the Valais there will be bright intervals. In southern regions it will be rather sunny. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.

Monday

In northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy, accompanied by snow showers. In southern regions it will be quite sunny. The avalanche danger will diminish only incrementally.