Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 7 February 2015

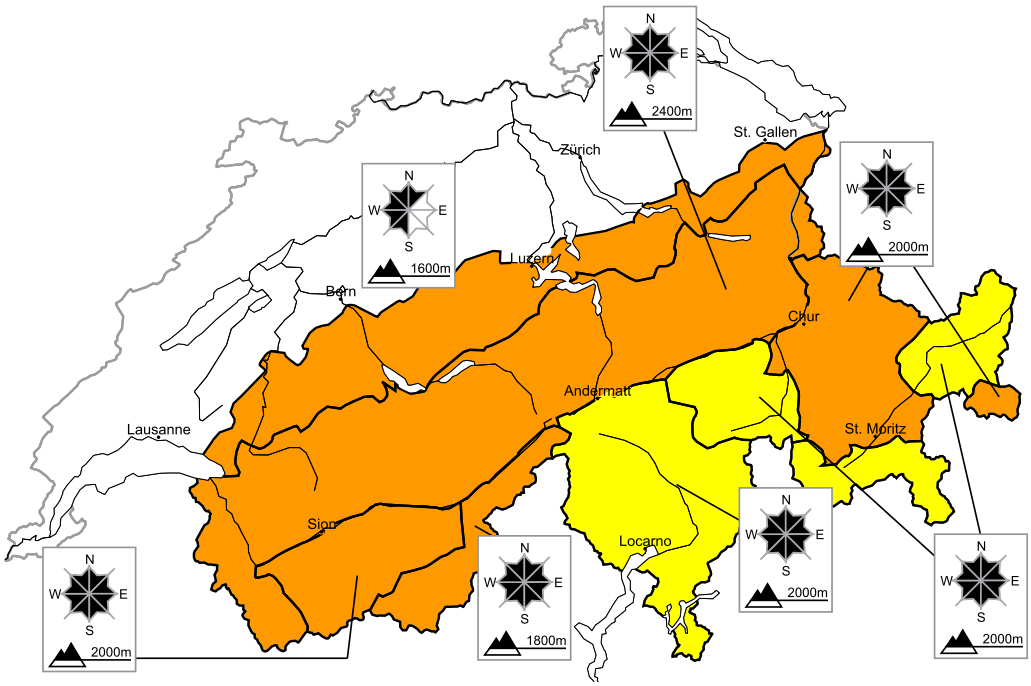
7.2.2015, 07:52

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 7.2.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 7.2.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

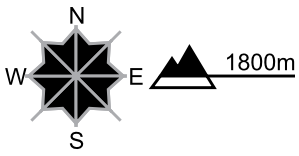
updated on 7.2.2015, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow of the last two days represents the main danger. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches very easily, including dangerously large ones. Remote triggering is possible. Natural avalanches are possible. The conditions are critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

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

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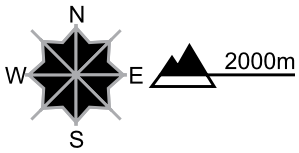
region B — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular in little used backcountry terrain. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Avalanches can reach medium size in isolated cases. Remote triggering is possible. As a consequence of the easterly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be assessed with care and prudence. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

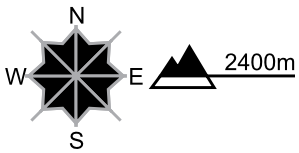
Full-depth avalanches

Prättigau: Small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible on cut and grassy slopes, in particular at low and intermediate altitudes. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

At elevated altitudes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Avalanches can additionally be released in deeper layers in isolated cases. This applies especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

Northern flank of the Alps: Small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible on cut and grassy slopes, in particular at low and intermediate altitudes. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

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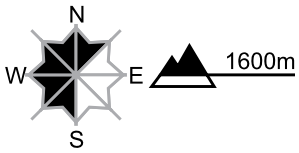
region D — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be bypassed in steep terrain. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

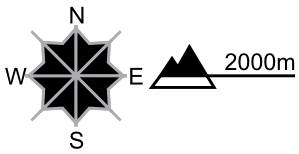
Full-depth avalanches

Small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible on cut and grassy slopes. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region E — Level 2, moderate

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



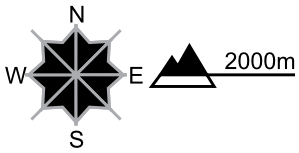
Danger description

Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow in isolated cases. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but difficult to recognise.
As a consequence of the easterly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be assessed with care and prudence. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region F — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can be released easily. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Careful route selection is recommended.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 6.2.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong velocity bise winds, snowdrift accumulations which can trigger with particular ease have formed over the last two days in the Jura and in the Prealps more than anywhere else. The selfsame process of snow being transported and snowdrifts accumulating continued today at high altitudes in the Alps.
The deep layers of snow from last week are gradually settling and consolidating. However, they have from region to region been deposited on top of surface hoar, or else on top of other weakened layers within the old snow cover. Particularly in southern Valais and in northern and central Grisons, avalanches can fracture down inside the old, weak snowpack and release in greater mass. On the northern flank of the Alps the weakened layers are usually blanketed with layers which are themselves so thick that they can ordinarily trigger only by large additional loading in those places where the snow tends to be rather shallow. On the southern flank of the Alps, the snow structuring is for the most part layered favourably.

Observed weather on Friday, 6.2.2015

Above the uppermost ceiling of the high altitude fogbanks, at approximately 2000m, it was partly sunny. In southern Upper Valais and in western Ticino, skies were overcast by and large, accompanied by slackening snowfall.

Fresh snow
Since Wednesday evening, the following amounts of new fallen snow have been registered:
· Zermatt, Saas Fee and southern Simplon region: 30 to 50 cm
· Remaining parts of Upper Valais, western Ticino, Bernina region: 10 to 20 cm

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C

Wind
· Alps: moderate to strong velocity winds from easterly directions
· Prealps and Jura: strong bise winds

Weather forecast through Saturday, 7.2.2015

It will be predominantly sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C

Wind
· Alps: light to moderate strength easterly winds
· Prealps and Jura: moderate to strong velocity bise winds

Outlook through Monday, 9.2.2015

On Sunday and Monday it will be predominantly sunny in western and southern regions. In northeastern regions skies will be overcast and a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. Temperatures are expected to sink drastically. Strong to storm-velocity northerly winds will be blowing. In northern regions the avalanche situation is not expected to change significantly. In southern region, the danger levels are expected to increase somewhat as a result of frequently forming fresh snowdrift accumulations.