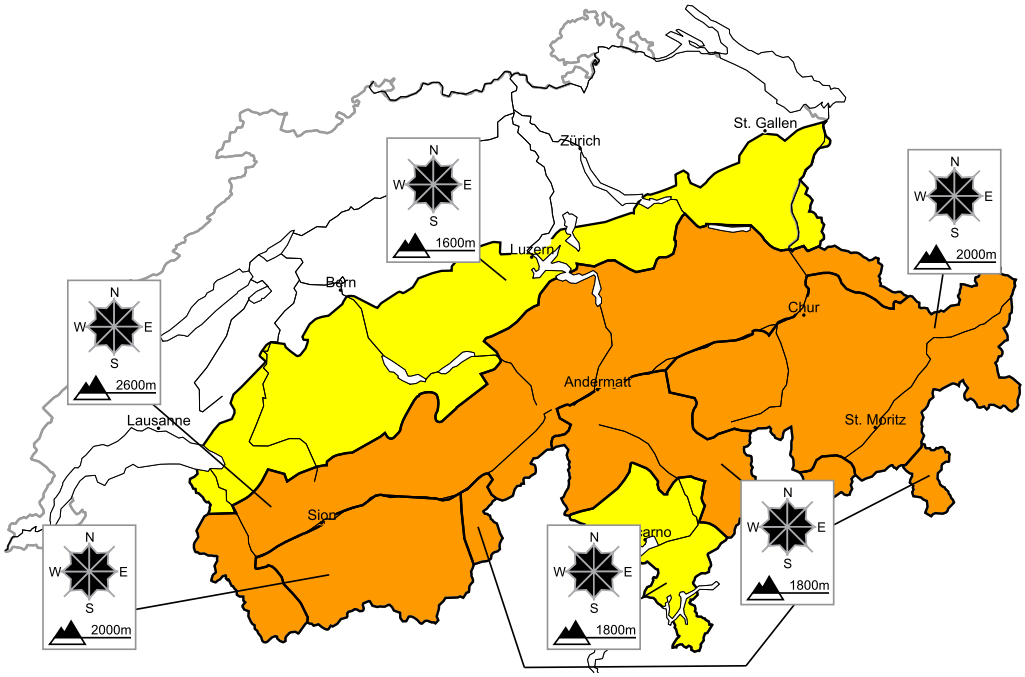
Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 9 February 2015

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Snow drifts require caution

Edition: 9.2.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 9.2.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

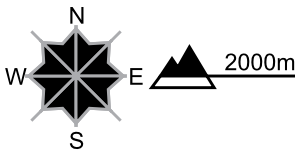
updated on 9.2.2015, 08:00



region A — 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.
As a consequence of the northerly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. This applies in particular above approximately 2500 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be avoided as far as possible.

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

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

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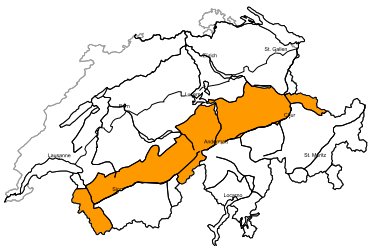
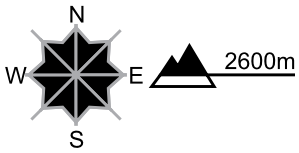
region B — Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the northerly wind the snow drift accumulations will increase in size. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls in all aspects. Avalanches can additionally be released in deeper layers in very isolated cases. This applies on steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

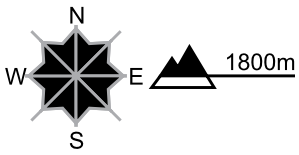
Full-depth avalanches

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

Avalanche prone locations



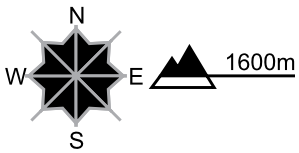
Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind the snow drift accumulations will increase in size. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. They 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.

region D — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. These are mostly small. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed in steep terrain. Avalanches can additionally be released in deeper layers in very isolated cases. 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

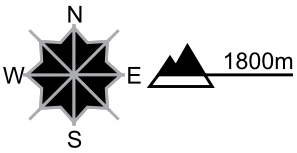
Small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible on cut and grassy slopes. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region E

Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind the snow drift accumulations will increase in size. These can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for careful route selection.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 8.2.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong velocity winds, snowdrift accumulations which in some regions were large-sized and wide ranging formed more than anywhere else in areas adjacent to ridgelines and at high altitudes in general.
Particularly in southern Valais and in northern and central Grisons, avalanches can fracture deeper down inside the old, weak snowpack. On the northern flank of the Alps the structuring of the snow layers is quite favourable. In isolated cases, however, certain deeply embedded layers inside the old snowpack remain weak, more than anywhere else in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps. On the southern flank of the Alps the snow layering is by and large more favourably structured.

Observed weather on Sunday, 8.2.2015

In northern and in eastern regions skies were overcast and there was a small amount of snowfall. In western and in southern regions it was quite sunny.

Fresh snow
Central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, northern and central Grisons, Engadine: 5 to 10 cm

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -10 °C in northern regions and -7 °C in western and southern regions

Wind
- Above approximately 2500 m, as well as as all altitudes in the Jura mountains and on the southern flank of the Alps: strong to storm velocity northerly winds
- At other altitudes and in the remaining regions: moderate-strength northerly winds for the most part

Weather forecast through Monday, 9.2.2015

During the early morning hours it will be sunny in all regions of the Swiss Alps. Over the course of the morning, new cloud cover will move in from the northeast, bringing with it a small amount of snowfall.

Fresh snow
Eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, northern and central Grisons, Engadine: only a few centimeters of fresh fallen snow

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in western and southern regions and -9 °C in northeastern regions

Wind
- Above approximately 2500 m, as well as at all altitudes in the Jura mountains and on the southern flank of the Alps: strong to storm velocity northerly winds, slackening off during the course of the day
- At other altitudes and in the remaining regions: light to moderate strength northerly winds

Outlook through Wednesday, 11.2.2015

Above the upper ceiling of the high altitude fogbanks, it will be predominantly sunny and significantly warmer on both days. Winds will be light for the most part. The avalanche danger is expected to diminish. The regions of the Valais and Grisons, where the snowpack is weak overall, are expected to persist in remaining the most treacherous.