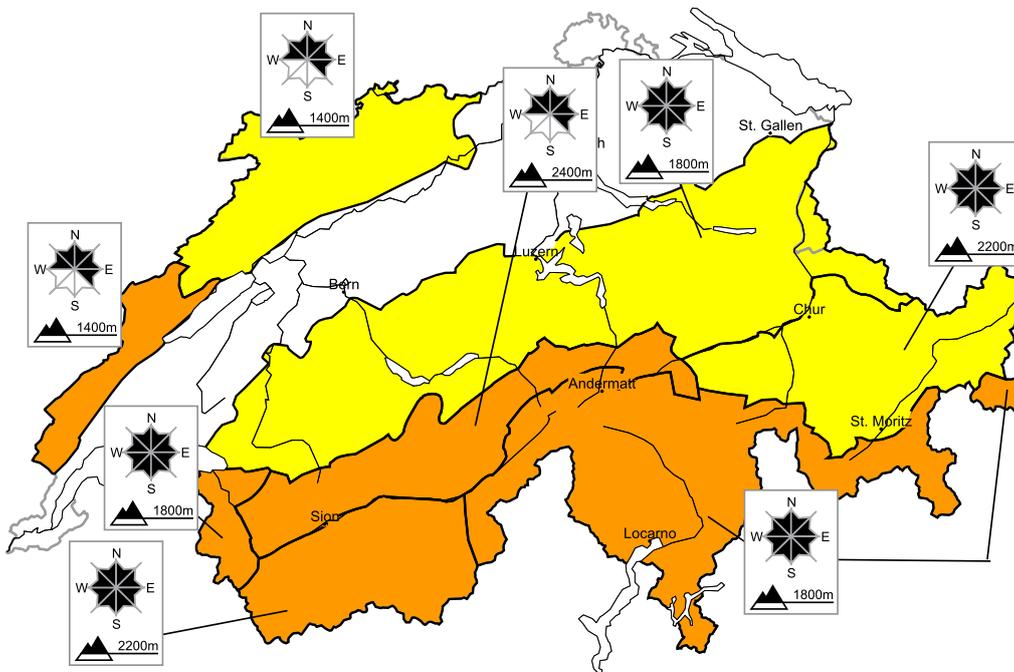


# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 23.2.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 23.2.2015, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 23.2.2015, 08:00



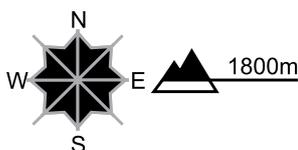
### region A

### Level 3, considerable



#### Fresh snow and snow drifts

##### Avalanche prone locations



##### Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

#### Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



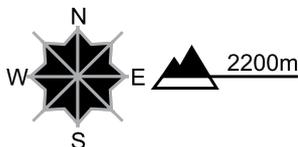
region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Additionally in some places avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

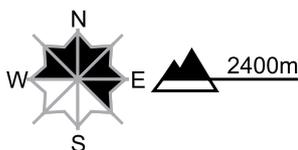
region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

More recent snow drift accumulations are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. They are covered with fresh snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

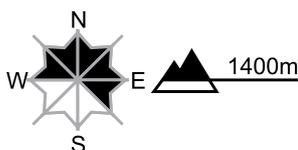
region D

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As the day progresses avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain individual mostly small full-depth avalanches and wet snow slides are possible. This applies especially on very steep slopes.

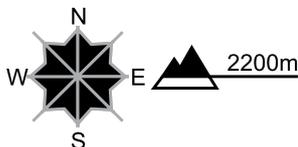
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Old snow, snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

In some places avalanches can penetrate even deep layers and reach medium size in isolated cases. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in little used backcountry terrain. The avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable. In particular adjacent to the ridge line mostly small snow drift accumulations have formed. These must be evaluated with care and prudence. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

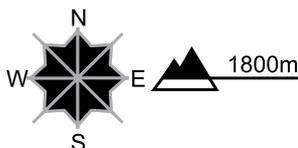
**region F**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The somewhat older snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. As the day progresses further snow drift accumulations will form. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Western part of the northern flank of the Alps: As the day progresses danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached possibly. Careful route selection is important.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

Individual full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are possible below approximately 1800 m.

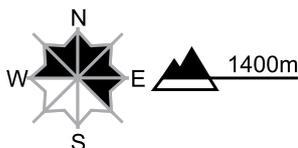
**region G**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As the day progresses avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Mostly these are small. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

**Wet avalanches**

As a consequence of the rain individual mostly small full-depth avalanches and wet snow slides are possible. This applies especially on very steep slopes.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 22.2.2015, 17:00

### Snowpack

The snowdrift accumulations which were brought about on Saturday as a result of southerly winds, more than anywhere else at high altitudes and in the classic foehn-exposed regions on the northern flank of the Alps, are small-sized by and large. They have been blanketed over by new fallen snow and are no longer discernible from the surface. Subsequently, as a result of northerly winds, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations formed today, in particular on the Main Alpine Ridge as well as in northern parts of Ticino, however also in some spots at high altitudes in the northern parts of the Main Alpine Ridge. Both fresh fallen and freshly formed snowdrift accumulations have over widespread areas been deposited on top of a loosely packed snow cover surface in shady terrain and are prone to triggering.

More than anywhere else in southern Valais and in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, noticeably weak layers are evident, embedded deep down inside the snowpack. Particularly in these regions, avalanches can fracture at lower levels inside the snowpack and release. On the northern flank of the Alps, the structuring of the snow cover is more favourable. On the southern flank of the Alps the overall snow structure beneath the masses of new fallen snow is firm by and large, and favourably layered.

### Observed weather on Sunday, 22.2.2015

Last night there was snowfall over widespread areas. During the morning the precipitation rounded to a close. However, there were occasional, if hesitating, bright intervals. These occurred in particular in western and southern regions, as well as in high alpine regions. In the remaining regions, skies remained heavily overcast far and wide.

#### Fresh snow

Since Saturday morning above approximately 1000 m, the following amounts of new fallen snow have been registered:

- Chablais, Valais part of Main Alpine Ridge on the Italian border, central sector of southern flank of the Alps and Bergell: 40 to 70 cm
- remaining parts of Gotthard region, remaining parts of Main Alpine Ridge from Vals into the Bernina region, as well as Val Poschiavo: 20 to 40 cm
- western sector of northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Valais, southern regions of central Grisons and Upper Engadine: 10 to 25 cm
- elsewhere, 5 to 15 cm

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -8 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions

#### Wind

Light to moderate velocity northerly winds will prevail. Along the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge and in northern Ticino, winds will intermittently be blowing at strong velocity.

### Weather forecast through Monday, 23.2.2015

Following a night of clear skies in eastern and in southern regions, it will still be sunny in the early morning hours. Subsequently, cloud cover will rapidly move in from the west and precipitation will set in. The snowfall level is expected to ascend up to approximately 1500 m. Only in southern regions will it remain dry.

#### Fresh snow

- western parts of Lower Valais, northern Valais, western sector of northern flank of the Alps: 5 to 10 cm
- remaining parts of Valais, central and eastern sectors of northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons: as much as 5 cm; elsewhere it will remain predominantly dry

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, 0 °C in northern regions and -3 °C in southern regions

#### Wind

In northern regions, strong winds from westerly to southwesterly directions will be blowing. Elsewhere winds will be light to moderate.

**Outlook** through Wednesday, 25.2.2015

In northern regions skies will be overcast for the most part, accompanied by snow showers. Bright intervals will make themselves felt in the inneralpine regions more than anywhere else. Approximately 15 to 30 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated. In southern regions skies will be predominantly overcast on Tuesday, but only a small amount of snowfall is expected. On Wednesday it will be rather sunny. From time to time, strong velocity northerly winds will be blowing, particularly on the southern flank of the Alps. The avalanche danger is expected to increase somewhat in northern regions, depending on wind strength and on the amounts of snowfall. In southern regions, the current hazard level will persist, to begin with at least, at danger level 3 - considerable - due to freshly formed snowdrift accumulations.