Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 24 February 2015

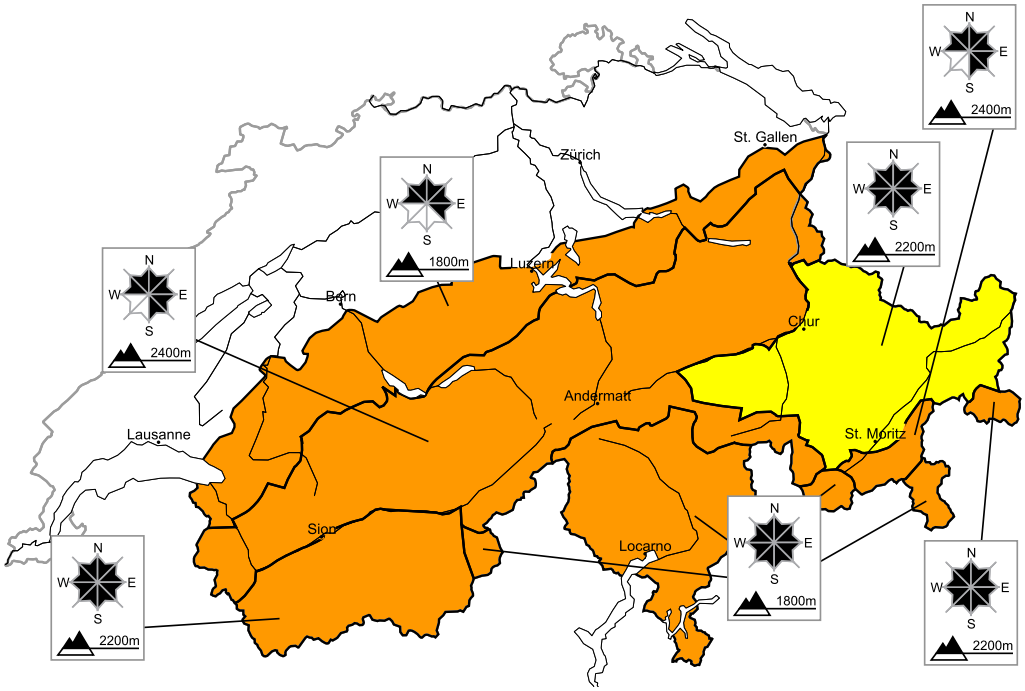
24.2.2015, 07:39

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 24.2.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 24.2.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

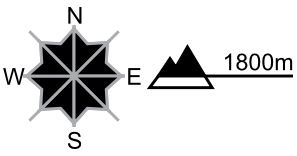
updated on 24.2.2015, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the northerly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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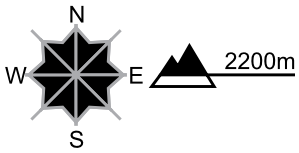
region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



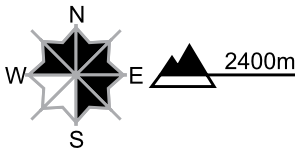
Danger description

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. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in little used backcountry terrain. They are barely recognisable.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



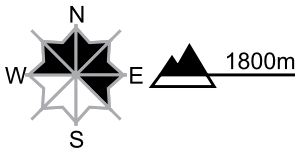
Danger description

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

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.

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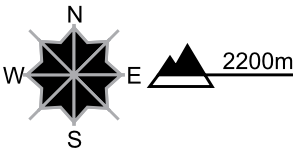
region E

Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the northerly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses.
Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in little used backcountry terrain. They are rare but barely recognisable.
As the day progresses danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached probably. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 23.2.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of the strong northerly wind, fresh snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering have formed on the southern flank of the Alps in particular. Variable wind directions in recent days have also given rise to various layers consisting of drifted snow. In some cases these are covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. On shady slopes in particular, these snow drift accumulations have been deposited on an unfavourable old snowpack and are prone to triggering.
In southern Valais and the inneralpine regions of Grisons in particular, weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack. In these regions in particular, avalanches can be released in fairly deep layers of the snowpack in some places. On the northern flank of the Alps, the bonding of the snowpack is more favourable. On the southern flank of the Alps, the bonding of the snowpack is mostly favourable.

Observed weather on Monday, 23.2.2015

After a clear night, the weather remained sunny in the east and south in the morning. Cloud then quickly built up from the west and triggered precipitation. The snowfall level was approximately 900 to 1200 m in the Jura and 1600 m on the northern flank of the Alps, but lower in some inneralpine regions. In the south the weather remained dry.

Fresh snow
In the Jura 5 to 10 cm of snow fell above approximately 1200 m, but elsewhere in the west and north only a few centimetres fell above approximately 1600 m.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: between +1 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south

Wind
Moderate to strong on the northern flank of the Alps, otherwise light to moderate from the southwest

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 24.2.2015

It will be overcast. Snow will fall in the north, but with decreasing intensity as the day progresses. The south will remain mostly dry.

Fresh snow
- Northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais, northern and central Grisons: 10 to 30 cm
- Upper Valais, Engadine: 5 bis 10 cm; elsewhere mostly dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: about -7 °C

Wind
In the north, moderate from the southwest, becoming northwesterly. In the south, strong from the north, giving rise to a foehn effect even in the valleys.

Outlook through Thursday, 26.2.2015

Wednesday
In the north the snowfall will ease. In the north a further 5 to 15 cm of snow is to be expected by the middle of the day. During the day it will become sunnier from the west. Only in Grisons will the skies remain overcast until the evening. The northerly wind will ease a little. It will remain cold. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.

Thursday
It is expected to be dry and quite sunny. As a consequence of the light to moderate northeasterly wind, it will remain cold. The avalanche danger will decrease only slowly.