Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 28 February 2015

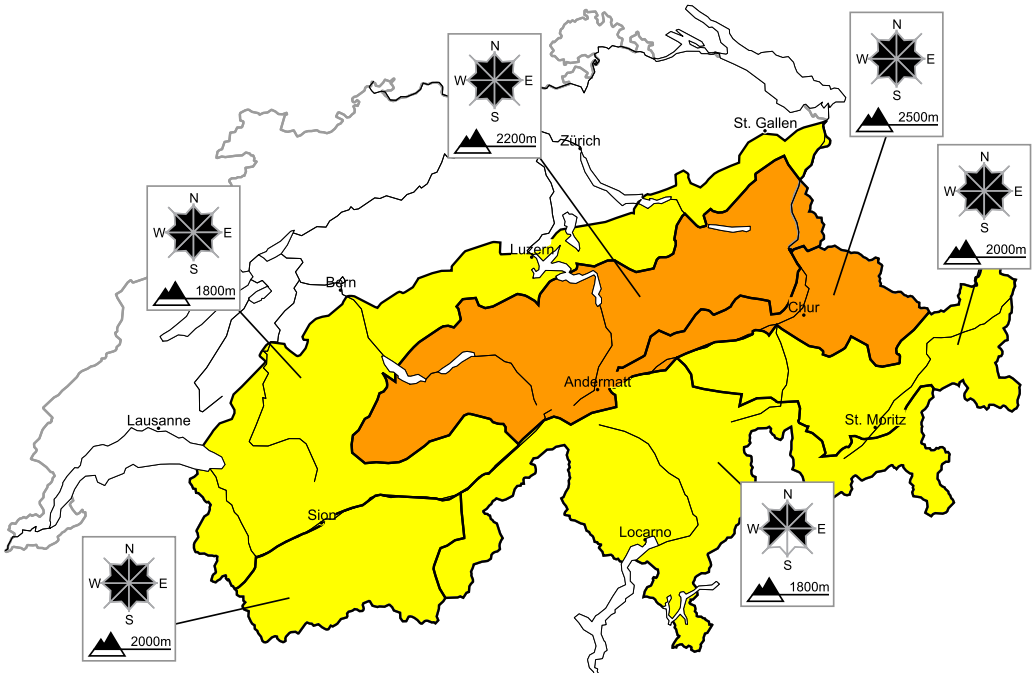
28.2.2015, 07:53

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 28.2.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 28.2.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

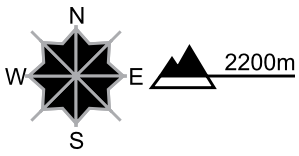
updated on 28.2.2015, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released easily, even by a single winter sport participant,. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas and on very steep slopes. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in deeper layers also. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

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

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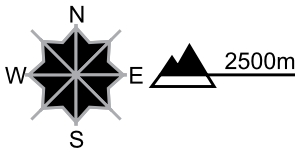
region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

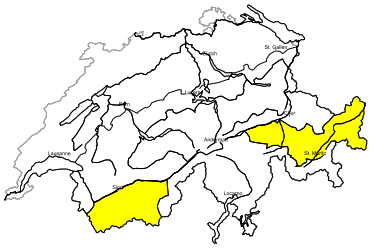
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

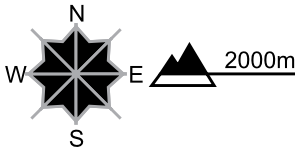
Fresh snow drift accumulations have formed especially adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. These can be released easily, even by a single winter sport participant,. Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in little used backcountry terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

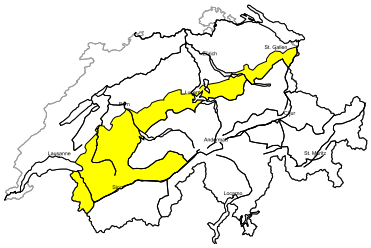
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

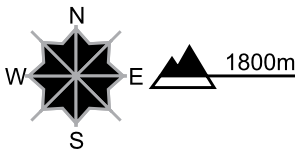
Fresh snow drift accumulations have formed especially adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. These can be released by people, but they will be small in most cases. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is slightly greater. Val Müstair, as well as little used backcountry terrain: Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The mostly small snow drift accumulations of Friday can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. Above approximately 3000 m avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is slightly greater. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in deeper layers also.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

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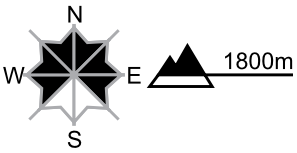
region E

Level 2, moderate

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in near-surface layers especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Above approximately 3000 m: On Friday small snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 27.2.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of winds which in some places reached moderate velocity, particularly in zones adjacent to ridgelines and pass areas, small-sized but prone-to-triggering snowdrift accumulations have formed. In addition, the snowdrift accumulations which were blanketed over by last week's new fallen snow can still be triggered in some places.
Deeper down inside the snow cover, in southern Valais, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in the Münstertal more than anywhere else, weakened layers are evident inside the snowpack. In addition, the snow structuring on shady slopes in the vicinity of the treeline is unfavourable widespread, excluding on the southern flank of the Alps. In those regions in particular, and at high altitudes in general, avalanches can to some extent fracture down to more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack. At higher altitudes, the snow layering on the northern flank of the Alps is structured more favourably. On the southern flank of the Alps the snow cover is for the most part favourably layered.

Observed weather on Friday, 27.2.2015

In eastern regions the nighttime skies were to some extent clear. Subsequently, snowfall set in from the west. During the day in northern regions there was snowfall down to low lying areas. In southern regions skies were predominantly overcast, but it remained dry, by and large.

Fresh snow
- Northern flank of the Alps: 10 to 20 cm
- Lower Valais, northern and central Grisons, Lower Engadine: 5 to 10 cm
- Elsewhere: less snow or it remained dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -4 °C

Wind
In northeastern regions westerly to northwesterly winds were blowing at moderate velocity in zones adjacent to ridgelines, elsewhere at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 28.2.2015

During the night in northeastern regions the final round of snowfall will come to a close. After residual clouds disperse it will turn quite sunny in western regions over the course of the day; in eastern regions it will be only partly sunny.

Fresh snow
- Central and eastern sectors of northern flank of the Alps: 5 to 10 cm
- Western sector of northern flank of the Alps, northern and central Grisons: maximum 5 cm
- Elsewhere: predominantly dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions

Wind
Light winds for the most part, from varying directions

Outlook through Monday, 2.3.2015

In northern regions it will be heavily overcast for the most part on both days. As a result of strong to storm-strength westerly winds, intermittent snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1000 m. In southern regions it will be variably cloudy, but it is expected to remain dry. The avalanche danger will increase particularly in northern regions; in southern regions the danger levels are not expected to change significantly.