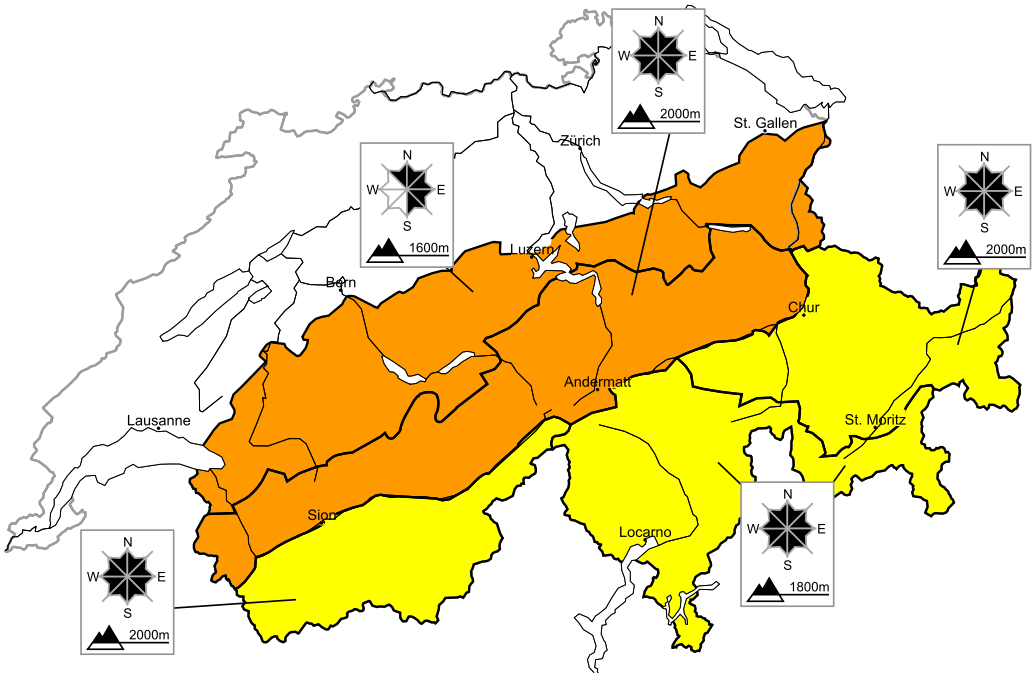
Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 1.3.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 1.3.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

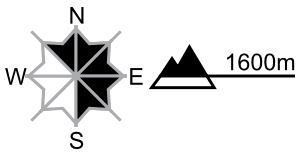
updated on 1.3.2015, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind snow drift accumulations will form. As the day progresses the previously small snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. They are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily.
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.

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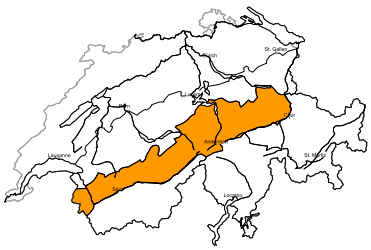
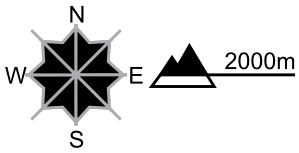
region B — Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



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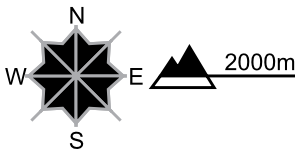
region C — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



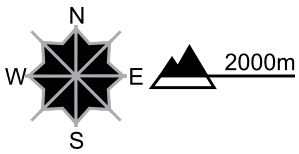
Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind the previously small snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. These can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. As the day progresses danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached.
Southern Lower Valais 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 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 the previously small snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. These can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses.
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 experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

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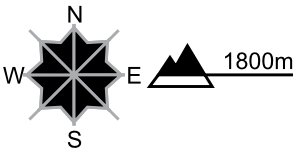
region E

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. At elevated altitudes mostly small snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 28.2.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

There are great amounts of loosely packed snow which are being transported to an increasing extent by strengthening westerly winds, in western and northern regions more than anywhere else. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, particularly in zones adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas, blanket over older layers of snowdrift which are prone to triggering; or crusts, in some places on steep, south facing slopes; or loosely packed snow over widespread areas elsewhere. The freshly drifted accumulations are prone to triggering.
Deeper down inside the snow cover, more than anywhere else in southern Valais, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in the MÃ¼nstertal, weak layers of snow are evident. In addition, the snow structuring on shady slopes in the vicinity of the treeline, except for on the southern flank of the Alps, is unfavourable over widespread areas. Particularly in the regions indicated, and at high altitudes in general, avalanches from place to place can fracture down to more deeply embedded layers within the snow cover and thereby grow to dangerously large size.
At high altitudes the layering of the old snowpack on the northern flank of the Alps is predominantly more favourable. On the southern flank of the Alps the snow cover is more favourably layered by and large.

Observed weather on Saturday, 28.2.2015

On Friday night the latest round of snowfall came to a close. Already in the early morning hours it was predominantly sunny in high alpine regions. During the day, skies turned variably cloudy accompanied in some places by brief intervals of sunshine. The greatest amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered between the Alpstein region and Grisons.

Fresh snow
Between Thursday evening and Saturday morning, the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:
- Eastern parts of Bernese Oberland, Glarner Alps, Alpstein: 20 to 30 cm
- Remaining sectors of northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais, northern and central Grisons: for the most part 10 to 20 cm
- Remaining regions: less snowfall or it remained dry

The snowfall level descended down to low lying areas.

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

Wind
From southerly directions, blowing at light to moderate strength

Weather forecast through Sunday, 1.3.2015

On Saturday night, cloud cover will move in from the west. During the day skies will be heavily overcast for the most part. In the furthermost southern regions it will turn increasingly sunny over the course of the afternoon.

Fresh snow
Valais and northern flank of the Alps: approximately 5 cm; elsewhere, it will for the most part remain dry.
The snowfall level will ascend from low lying areas up towards 1500 m.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -1 °C in western regions and -3 °C in southern regions

Wind
Winds are expected to markedly intensify in strength and, particularly in northern regions as well as at high altitudes in general, be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from westerly directions. The wind will intensify further over the course of the afternoon.

Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 1 March 2015

Outlook through Tuesday, 3.3.2015

Monday

Skies are expected to be heavily overcast over widespread areas. More than anywhere else in western Lower Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, snowfall extending down to intermediate altitudes is anticipated. Westerly winds will be blowing at strong to storm velocity. In the furthermost southern regions it will be partly sunny, accompanied by northerly winds. Avalanche danger is expected to increase over widespread areas.

Tuesday

Conditions will remain variable, accompanied by scattered bright intervals. In western and southern regions in particular, a small amount of additional snowfall is expected. The avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.