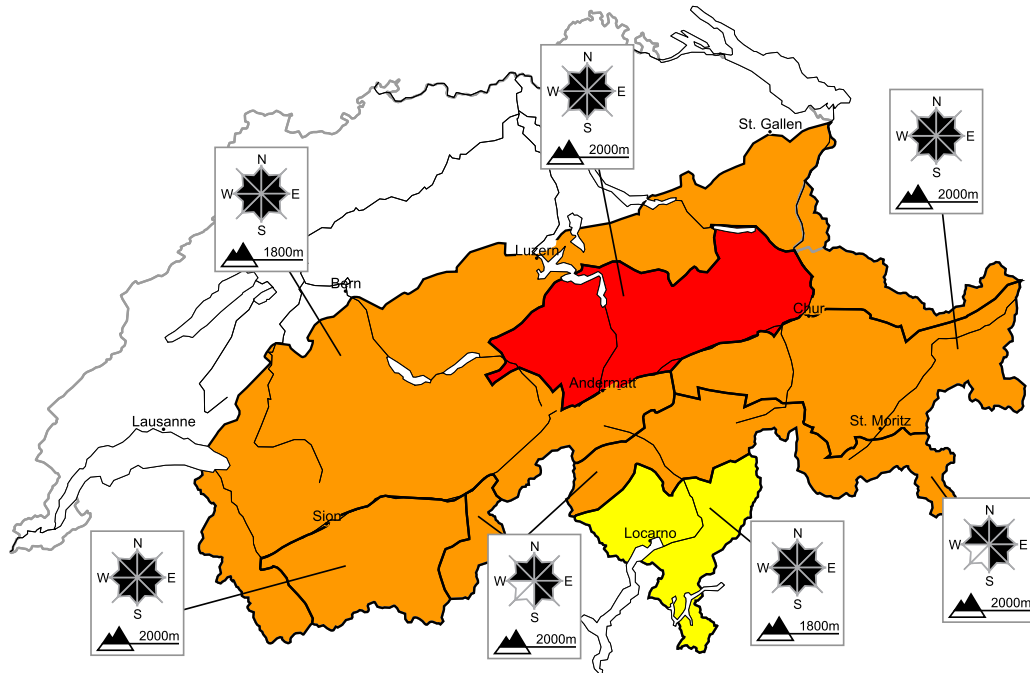


Outside marked and open pistes a critical avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 3.3.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 3.3.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 3.3.2015, 08:00



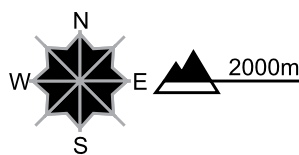
region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



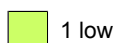
Danger description

A lot more fresh snow than expected: Over a wide area 20 to 30 cm of snow, and even more in some localities, has fallen during the night. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size. Small and medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for great caution and restraint.

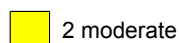
Wet and full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m small and medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are possible.

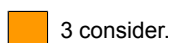
Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

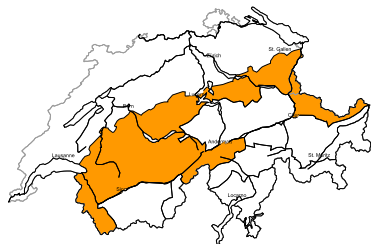


5 very high



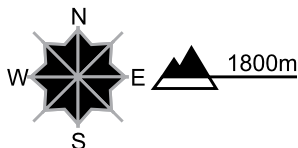
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers. Small and medium-sized natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m small and medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are possible.

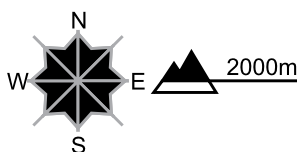
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Additionally avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in little used backcountry terrain. Whumpfung sounds serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Small to medium-sized natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

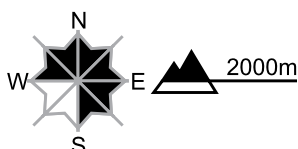
region D

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind snow drift accumulations have formed. These can in some cases be released easily. They are to be avoided. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

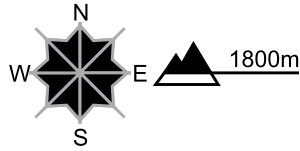
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



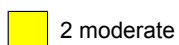
Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly rather small but can in some cases be released easily. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

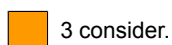
Danger levels



1 low



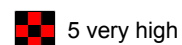
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



Snowpack and weather

updated on 2.3.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

The westerly wind, reaching storm force at times, transported fresh and old snow at high altitudes. In particular on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais, the fresh snow drift accumulations are deep and widespread in some cases. They are prone to triggering. In the regions exposed to heavier precipitation, the rain moistened the snowpack below approximately 2000 m and moistened it all the way through below approximately 1600 m. An increasing number of wet and full-depth avalanches occurred.

On the southern flank of the Alps, the bonding of the snowpack is mostly favourable. In the other regions, the bonding of the snowpack on shady slopes is unfavourable close to the tree line over a wide area. In southern Valais, the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in Val Müstair, furthermore, weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack. In some places, avalanches can penetrate even fairly deep layers of the snowpack and reach a dangerously large size.

Observed weather on Monday, 2.3.2015

It was very cloudy with persistent precipitation in the west and north in particular. There were isolated bright spells in the south. The snowfall level was approximately 2000 m in the west and 1500 m in the east. In the afternoon it dropped towards 1000 m.

Fresh snow

The following amounts of snow fell above approximately 2000 m in the period from Saturday evening until Monday afternoon:

- Extreme west of Lower Valais, northern Lower Valais: 30 to 50 cm
- Rest of Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps, Bedretto, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 20 to 40 cm, but up to 50 cm in some localities
- Rest of Valais, rest of northern Ticino, central Grisons, rest of Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm, but smaller amounts elsewhere

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -2 °C in the northwest and 0 °C in the southeast

Wind

From the west: strong to storm force in Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, moderate to strong in Grisons, light to moderate in Ticino

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 3.3.2015

During the night, a little more snow will fall above approximately 1000 m in the north and east. During the day there will be varying amounts of cloud with some bright spells. In the afternoon dense cloud will build up from the west and light snowfall will commence above approximately 1000 m. The south will be partly sunny, but become increasingly cloudy in the afternoon.

Fresh snow

Above approximately 1600 m:

- Northern flank of the Alps, northern and central Grisons, northern Lower Engadine: 5 to 15 cm
- Elsewhere: smaller amounts or dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -3 °C in the west and -6 °C in the east

Wind

The westerly wind will be moderate, but strong in the high Alpine regions

Outlook through Thursday, 5.3.2015

Wednesday

The north will be mostly cloudy and snow will fall, even at low altitudes. The precipitation will ease as the day progresses. Partly sunny in the south. For backcountry touring and off-piste activities the situation remains precarious.

Thursday

In the north there will be varying amounts of cloud and snow showers even at low altitudes. The south will be partly sunny. The avalanche danger will decrease only slowly.

