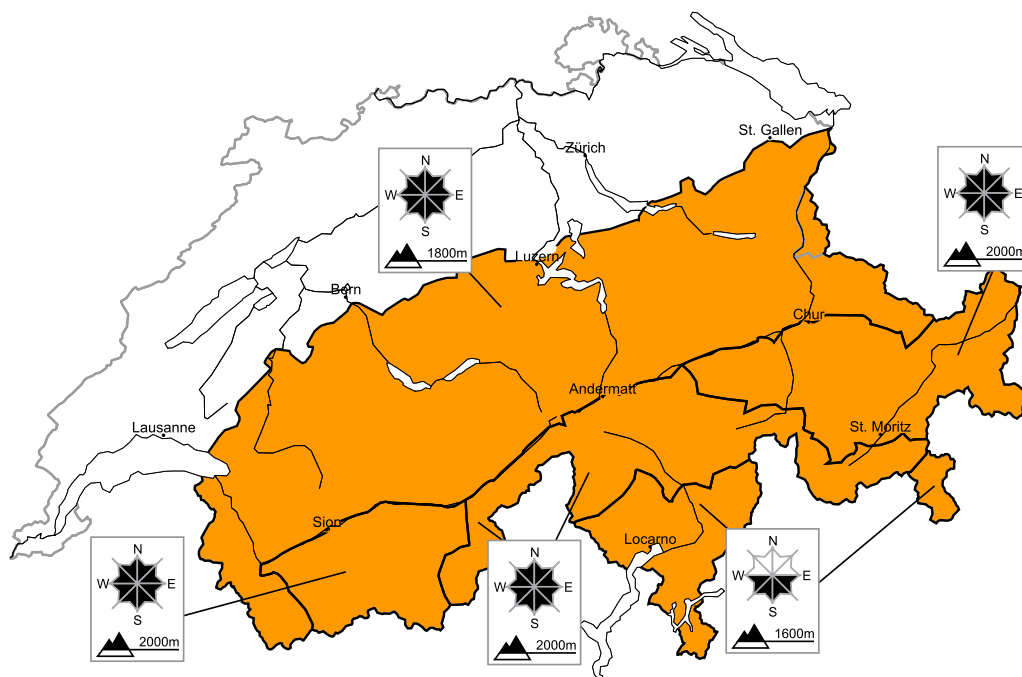


As a consequence of stormy weather a considerable avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 5.3.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 5.3.2015, 17:00

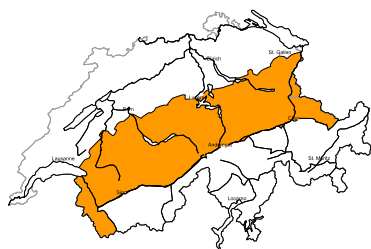
Avalanche danger

updated on 5.3.2015, 08:00



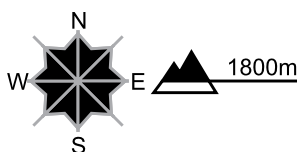
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

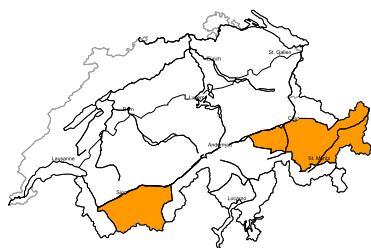


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather large surface-area snow drift accumulations have formed. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Avalanches can in isolated cases release deeper layers of the snowpack. Natural avalanches are to be expected. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint.

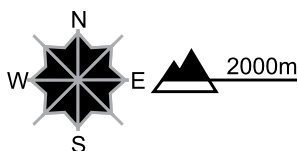
region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the stormy weather brittle snow drift accumulations have formed. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. Natural avalanches are to be expected. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience and restraint.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

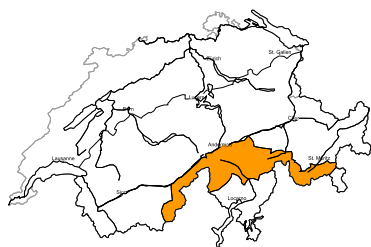
5 very high



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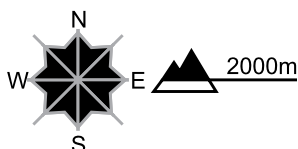
region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the stormy weather brittle snow drift accumulations have formed. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. Natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

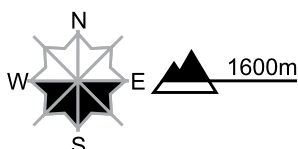
region D

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the stormy weather brittle snow drift accumulations will form. Mostly these are small but can be released even by a single winter sport participant. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.3.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of the precipitation from the beginning of the week, the snow cover in western regions is thoroughly wet below approximately 2000 m, in the eastern regions below approximately 1600 m. In southern regions the snow cover is by and large dry.

The fresh fallen snow from the last few days is loosely packed and is being transported by the storm velocity northerly winds. Ridges and crests are being utterly windblown and snowdrift accumulations are forming even far distant from ridgeline terrain, including down to the zones around the treeline.

More than anywhere else in southern Valais, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in Val Muestair, weakened layers are evident deep down inside the snowpack. Avalanches can in some places fracture down to more deeply embedded layers of the snow cover. North of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line the snowpack structuring is somewhat more favourable. On the southern flank of the Alps the snowpack is for the most part favourable.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 4.3.2015

In northern and western regions skies were predominantly overcast and there was snowfall down to low lying areas. In southern regions and in the Upper Engadine it was partly sunny.

Fresh snow

Above approximately 1500 m the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- Northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm, from place to place 30 cm
- Remaining parts of Valais not including Simplon region; in addition, the Gotthard region, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 5 to 10 cm
- Elsewhere there was less new fallen snow or it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in northern regions and -3 °C in southern regions

Wind

Light to moderate strength westerly to northwesterly winds, later shifting to northerly and becoming brisker

Weather forecast through Thursday, 5.3.2015

In northern and eastern regions skies will be overcast for the most part, accompanied by snow showers down to low lying areas. In the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps it will be partly sunny. Already on Wednesday night northerly winds will be blowing at strong to storm velocity.

Fresh snow

- Northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Alps to Liechtenstein, northern Upper Valais, Grisons north of the Anterior Rhine, Praetigau: 10 to 20 cm
- Lower Valais, remaining parts of the western sector of northern flank of the Alps, Bedretto, upper Leventina, remaining parts of northern and central Grisons, northern Engadine: 5 to 10 cm
- Elsewhere, less; or it will remain dry.

Temperature

Temperatures are expected to drop: at midday at 2000 m, between -11 °C in northern regions and -8 °C in southern regions

Wind

At high altitudes, strong to storm velocity northeasterly winds will be blowing; in southern regions, strong to storm velocity northerly winds extending down into the valleys.

Outlook through Saturday, 7.3.2015

Friday

In northeasterly regions the snowfall will come to an end on Friday morning and during the course of the day it will turn increasingly sunny. In the remaining regions it will be predominantly sunny accompanied by cloudbanks. Northeasterly winds will be blowing at strong to storm velocity. The danger of naturally triggered avalanches is expected to diminish. Treacherous conditions continue to prevail for skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain.

Saturday

It will be predominantly sunny accompanied by cloudbanks. Northerly winds will slacken off and it will become milder. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. The danger of wet avalanches is expected to increase somewhat during the course of the day.