Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 6 March 2015

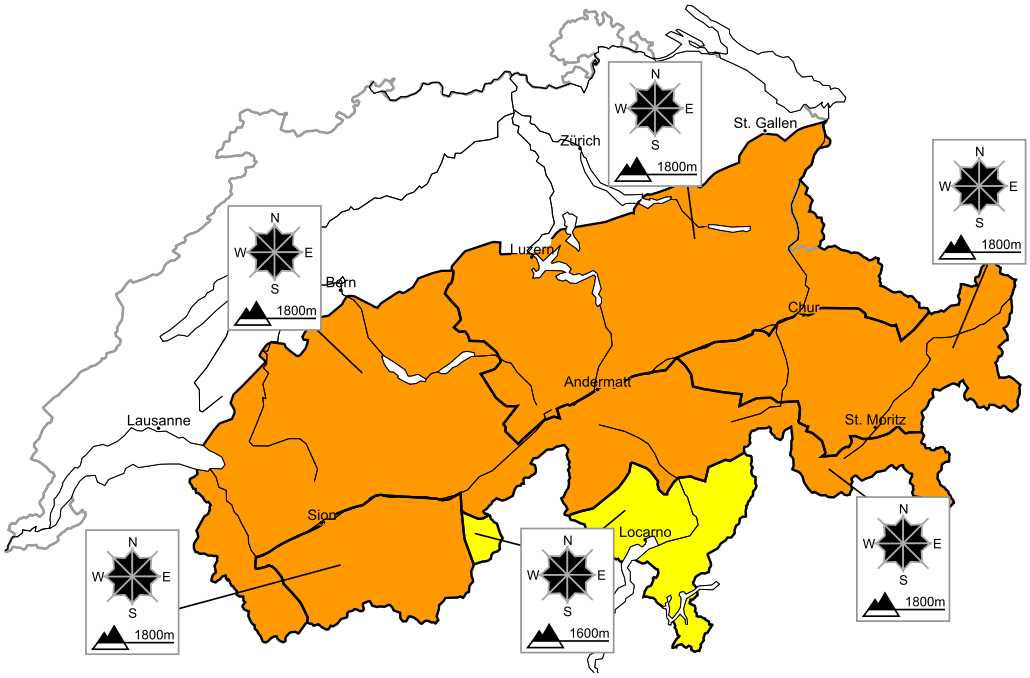
6.3.2015, 07:34

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 6.3.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 6.3.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

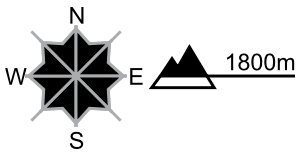
updated on 6.3.2015, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Natural avalanches are possible. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

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

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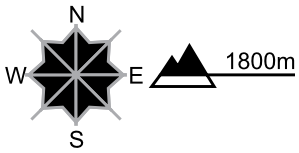
region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

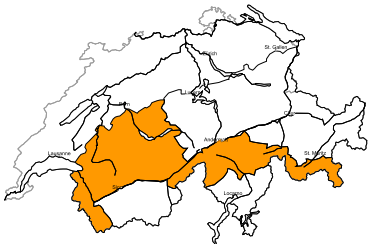
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

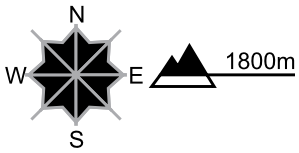
As a consequence of the stormy weather extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. These can penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

region C — Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



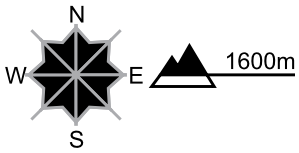
Danger description

As a consequence of the stormy weather extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Natural avalanches are possible. The avalanche prone locations are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region D — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind snow drift accumulations will form. Mostly these are small but can be released by a single winter sport participant. The avalanche prone locations are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for careful route selection.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 5.3.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong velocity northerly winds, far reaching and easily triggered snowdrift accumulations have formed. Naturally triggered avalanches have been reported. In western and southern regions, the avalanche prone locations are generally easy to recognize for all those with experience in outlying terrain. In eastern regions the avalanche prone locations are to some extent blanketed by new fallen snow, making them far more difficult to discern.
More than anywhere else in southern Valais, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in Val Muestair, weakened layers are evident inside the snowpack. Avalanches can in some places fracture down to more deeply embedded layers of the snow cover and release. North of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line the snowpack structuring is somewhat more favourable. On the southern flank of the Alps the snowpack layering is favourable by and large.

Observed weather on Thursday, 5.3.2015

In western and southern regions it was predominantly sunny. In eastern regions skies were heavily overcast. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, as well as in northern Grisons, there was snowfall down to low lying areas bringing 10 to 20 cm of fresh fallen snow.

Fresh snow

Between Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon above approximately 1500 m, the following overall amounts of new fallen snow were registered:

- Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps, Praettigau: 20 to 40 cm; from the Bernese Oberland into the Glarner Alps as much as 60 cm from place to place.
- Areas bordering to the immediate south: 10 to 20 cm.
- Southern flank of the Alps and Engadine not including Samnaun: for the most part it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -10 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions

Wind

- Strong to storm velocity winds from northerly directions
- In the Prealps, moderate strength bise winds during the afternoon

Weather forecast through Friday, 6.3.2015

Following a night of clear skies in western and southern regions it will be sunny. In eastern regions a small amount of snowfall is still anticipated, which will extend down to low lying areas. Subsequently it will turn increasingly sunny there as well.

Fresh snow

Eastern sector of northern flank of the Alps and northeastern part of Grisons: only a few centimeters.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -1 °C in western and in southern regions and -7 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

- At high altitudes in general, as well as in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps, strong to storm velocity northerly winds will be blowing to begin with. During the course of the day wind velocity will slacken off.
- Along the Prealps, moderate to strong velocity bise winds.

Outlook through Sunday, 8.3.2015

Apart from high altitude cloudbanks it will be sunny on both days. A moderate to strong velocity northeasterly wind will be blowing at high altitudes. Temperatures are expected to increase noticeably, by Sunday reaching approximately +6 °C at midday at 2000 m. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to diminish. The hazards of wet snow and full depth avalanches are expected to increase over the course of each day, following nights of clear skies.