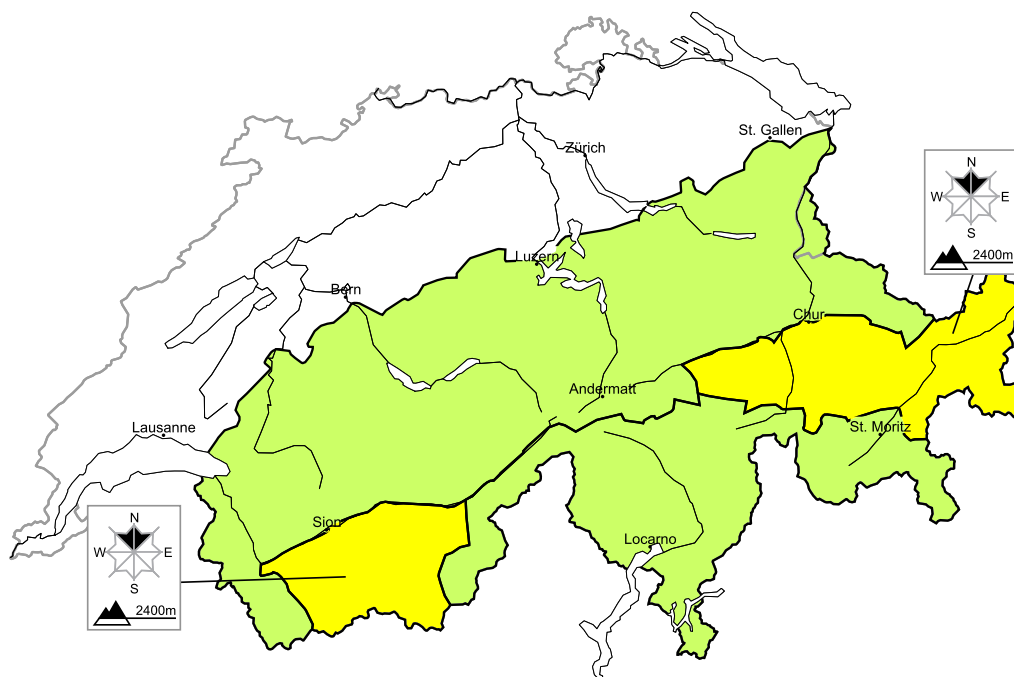


A favourable avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 15.3.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 15.3.2015, 17:00

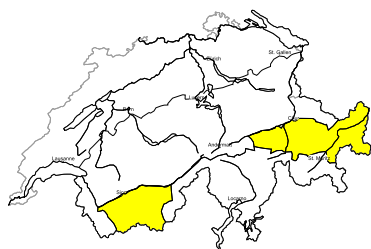
Avalanche danger

updated on 15.3.2015, 08:00



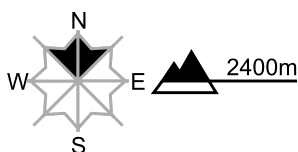
region A

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Weak layers deep in the old snowpack can be released especially by large additional loads in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in little used backcountry terrain. Individual medium-sized avalanches are possible. Very steep north facing slopes are to be traversed by snow sport participants one at a time. In the afternoon small snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be avoided especially in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

Very steep south facing slopes below approximately 2500 m: Slight increase in danger of wet and full-depth avalanches as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation. In the afternoon individual full-depth and wet avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

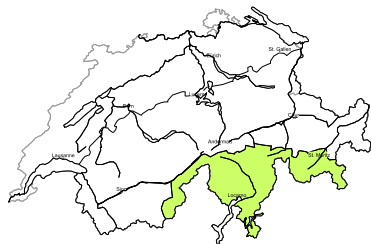
5 very high



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region B

Level 1, low



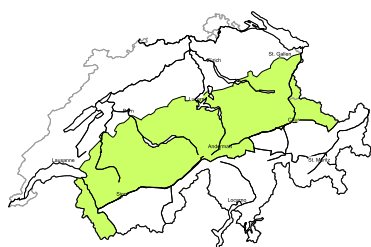
Snow drifts, old snow

The older snow drift accumulations are in individual cases still prone to triggering. In some places small snow drift accumulations will form, this applies in the afternoon. They are to be avoided especially in terrain where there is a danger of falling. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Main Alpine Ridge from the Monte Rosa massif to the Gotthard Pass, western Ticino: Increase in avalanche danger as the snowfall becomes more intense. In the afternoon danger level 2 (moderate) will be reached.

region C

Level 1, low



Old snow

The older snow drift accumulations are in individual cases still prone to triggering. In some places small snow drift accumulations will form, this applies in the afternoon. They are to be avoided especially in terrain where there is a danger of falling. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

Very steep south facing slopes below approximately 2500 m: Slight increase in danger of wet and full-depth avalanches as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation. In the afternoon individual full-depth and wet avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 14.3.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of increasingly strong southerly winds, small-sized snowdrift accumulations are forming from place to place on Sunday. These drifted masses are prone to triggering and should be circumvented.

Deeply embedded inside the snow cover, particularly in southern Valais, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in Val Muestair, weak layers consisting of faceted snow crystals are prevalent. In the regions indicated, avalanches can in some places be triggered in more deeply buried layers in the snowpack. In the remaining regions the snow cover is for the most part well consolidated and avalanches are expected to be triggered only in isolated cases, primarily through large additional loading.

On steep, south facing slopes the snow cover is thoroughly wet up to altitudes of about 2600 m. In northern regions the snowpack surface on south facing slopes freezes during the night and forms a supporting crust below approximately 2800 m. On east and west facing slopes a breakable melt-freeze crust forms. More than anywhere else in the regions exposed to solar radiation, these crusts subsequently soften and melt somewhat during the course of the day. Thereby the snow cover weakens to a certain extent, especially on south facing slopes. North facing slopes are still loosely packed only in wind-protected terrain, in all other places they are heavily wind influenced.

Observed weather on Saturday, 14.3.2015

In northern regions skies were clear for the most part. In southern regions skies were overcast accompanied by a small amount of snowfall. It still remained quite sunny in northern regions during the course of the day, in spite of slowly accumulating cloud cover. In southern regions skies were heavily overcast, but it remained dry.

Fresh snow

On the southern flank of the Alps, maximum 2 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Blowing at light strength from varying directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 15.3.2015

In northern regions, following a night of predominantly clear skies, it will turn quite sunny in spite of intermittent high altitude cloudbanks. In southern regions skies will be heavily overcast. During the course of the night light snowfall is expected to set in which will subsequently intensify during the afternoon. The snowfall level is expected to drop down to approximately 1000 m.

Fresh snow

- Simplon region, 5 to 15 cm
- Valais part of Main Alpine Ridge, central sector of southern flank of the Alps, approximately 5 cm
- Elsewhere it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in northern regions, -1 °C; in southern regions, -4 °C

Wind

Light strength southerly to southwesterly winds will be blowing. On Sunday afternoon they will gain in velocity at high altitudes. In the valleys of northern regions, foehn winds are expected to arise during the afternoon.

Outlook through Tuesday, 17.3.2015

On Monday, snowfall extending down to low lying areas is anticipated on the southern flank of the Alps; along the Main Alpine Ridge from Saas Fee into the Binntal, the snowfall will intermittently be intense. On Tuesday, the snowfall is expected to slacken off in southern regions. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, the danger of avalanches is expected to increase, particularly significantly in the Valais part of the Main Alpine Ridge from the upper Saas Valley into the Binntal in the major areas of precipitation. In those regions, avalanche danger level "high" (4) could well be reached during Monday night.

In northern regions it will remain dry on both days and be quite sunny. The danger of avalanches is not expected to change significantly in northern regions.