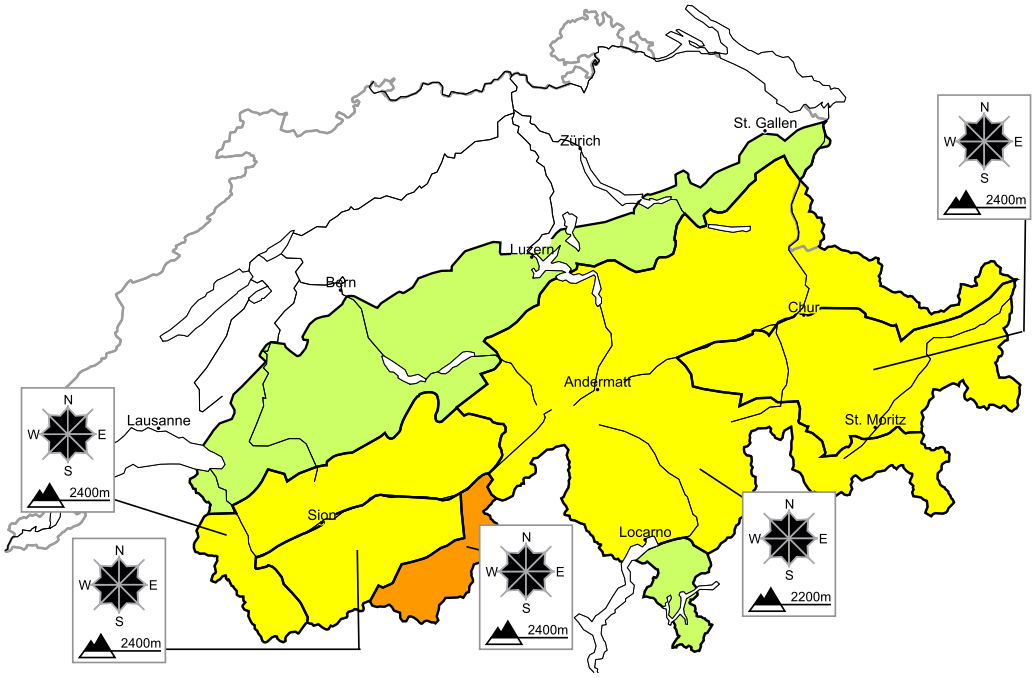
Fresh snow drifts require caution. In Valais a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 27.3.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 27.3.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

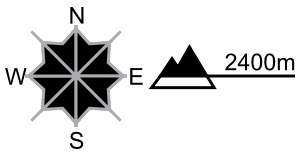
updated on 27.3.2015, 08:00



region A | **Level 3, considerable**

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



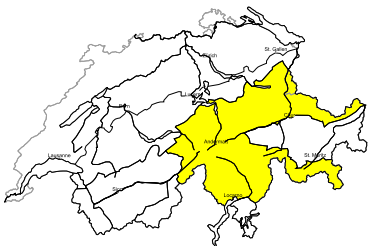
Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. 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 and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

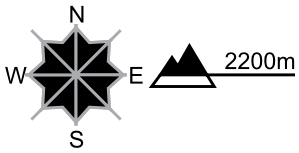
As a consequence of solar radiation numerous small to medium-sized moist loose snow avalanches are to be expected, especially on very steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m.

region B — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



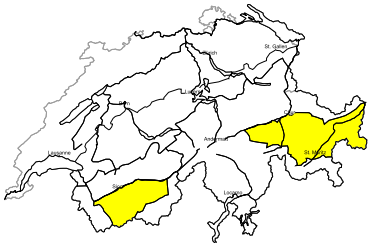
Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Careful route selection is important.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

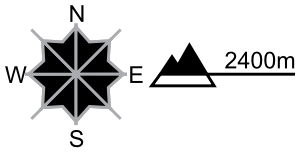
More frequent full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected below approximately 2200 m.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



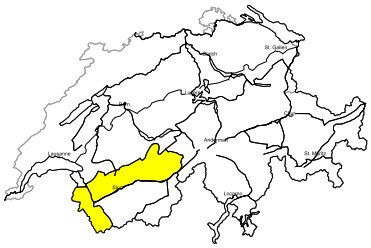
Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls. Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow, mostly by large additional loads. This applies especially on extremely steep north facing slopes.
Careful route selection is important.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

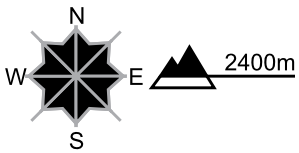
More frequent full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected below approximately 2200 m.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Careful route selection is important.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

More frequent full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected below approximately 2200 m.

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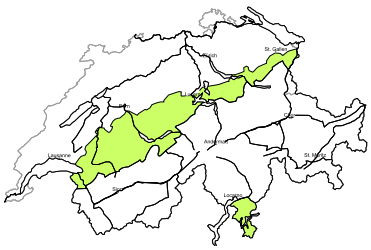
region E

Level 1, low



Snow drifts

At elevated altitudes small snow drift accumulations will form. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in extreme terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls.
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

More frequent full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected below approximately 2200 m.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 26.3.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong to storm velocity northerly winds, snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering are forming more than anywhere else at high altitudes. These drifted masses are deepest in the Upper Valais sector of the Main Alpine Ridge, where recent snowfall has been heaviest.
Embedded deep inside the snowpack, particularly in southern Valais, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in Val Müstair, weakened layers of snow consisting of faceted snow crystals are prevalent. In the regions indicated, avalanches can from place to place be triggered in these buried layers of the old snowpack on very steep, north facing slopes more than anywhere else. In the remaining regions the snow cover is for the most part well consolidated.
The old snow cover is thoroughly wet up to approximately 2800 m on south facing slopes. Below approximately 2300 m on west and east facing slopes, the extent of overall snowpack wetness is increasing.

Observed weather on Thursday, 26.3.2015

In southern regions the snowfall came to an end on Wednesday evening. In northern regions there was a small amount of snowfall during the night. The snowfall level lay between 1000 and 1400 m. Subsequently during the day skies were frequently overcast. In southern regions there were scattered bright intervals. Over the highest summits of the Alps it was quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Tuesday midday and Thursday morning the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:
- Along the Italian border from Monte Rosa to the Simplon Pass: 20 to 40 cm
- Remaining parts of Upper Valais sector of Main Alpine Ridge, Bedrettotal, upper valleys of Maggia: 10 to 20 cm
- remaining parts of the Main Alpine Ridge from Great St. Bernard to the Bernina Pass and southwards therefrom: 5 to 10 cm
- Remaining regions: over widespread areas only a few centimeters

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in western regions and 0 °C in eastern and southern regions

Wind

Southerly winds were blowing predominantly at light strength.

Weather forecast through Friday, 27.3.2015

On Thursday night a small amount of snowfall is anticipated in northern regions. South of the Main Alpine Ridge skies will be clear for the most part. During the day on Friday a further small amount of snowfall is expected in eastern regions. Skies will subsequently brighten from the west. In southern regions it will be rather sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday midday the following amounts of new fallen snow are anticipated:
- Northern sector of Alpine Ridge from the Jungfrau to Liechtenstein, northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm
- Other regions: just a few centimeters; in southern regions it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C in northern regions and -3 °C in southern regions.

Wind

In southern regions, strong to storm velocity winds from northwest to north. In other regions winds will prevail at moderate to strong velocity.

Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 27 March 2015

Outlook through Sunday, 29.3.2015

Saturday

Following a night of clear skies it will be rather sunny in northern regions. As evening approaches cloud cover will move in from the west. In southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. Strong velocity northerly winds will continue to blow. The danger of dry avalanches is not expected to change significantly. The danger of wet avalanches will increase somewhat over the course of the day.

Sunday

In northern regions snowfall is anticipated. In southern regions it will be quite sunny. The avalanche danger could increase somewhat in northern regions. In southern regions it is expected to incrementally decrease.