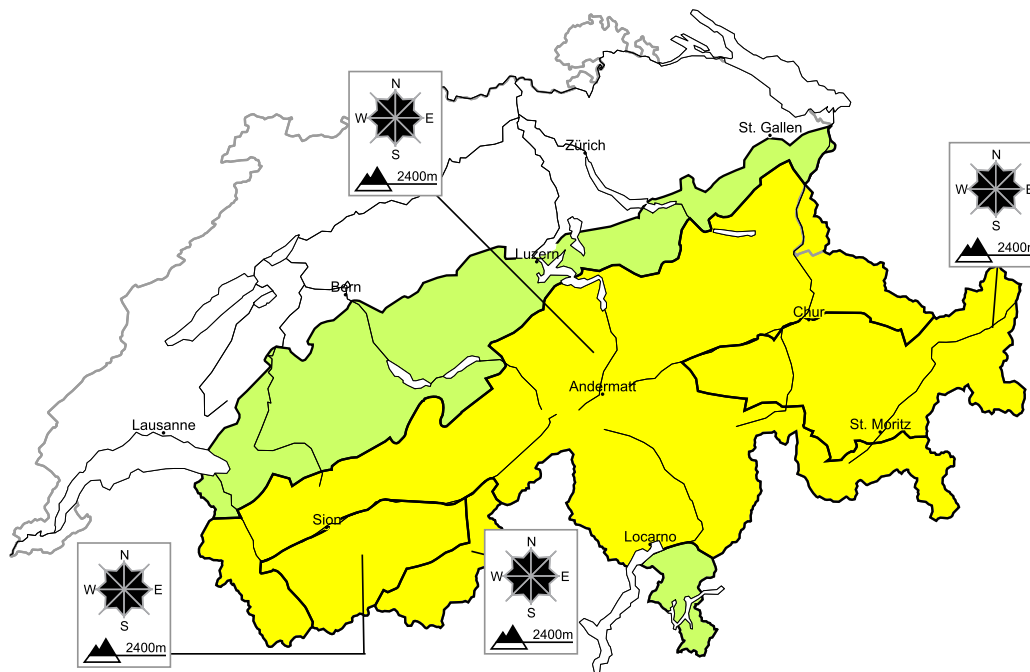


Fresh snow drift accumulations at elevated altitudes

Edition: 28.3.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 28.3.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 28.3.2015, 08:00



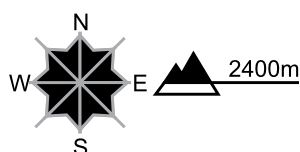
region A

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Above approximately 2800 m the danger is considerable (level 3). Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

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

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

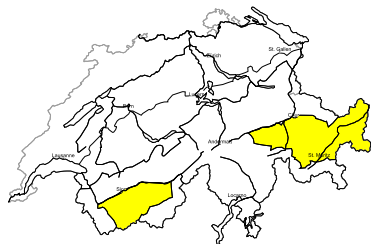
5 very high



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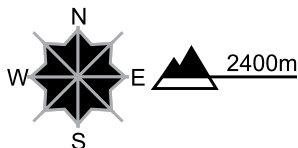
region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

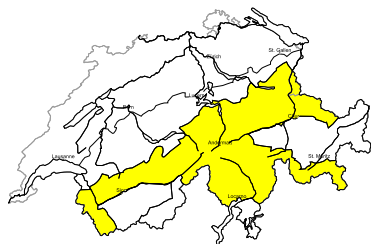
The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old 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

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation numerous small to medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, especially on steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m.

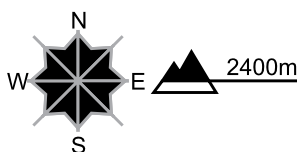
region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

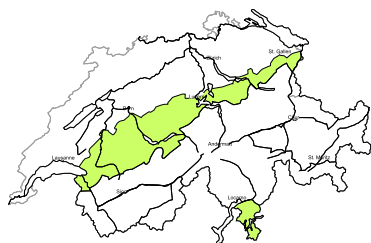
The mostly small snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Careful route selection is important.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation numerous small to medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, especially on steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m.

region D

Level 1, low



Snow drifts

At elevated altitudes small snow drift accumulations have formed. 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

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation numerous small to medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, especially on steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 27.3.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong northerly winds, relatively small-sized snowdrift accumulations have been brought about at high altitudes more than anywhere else. These drifted masses are still prone to triggering in some places. Nevertheless, experienced backcountry tourers will be able to clearly recognize them.

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. As accumulating daytime warmth and solar radiation make their effects felt, the snow cover tends to forfeit its overall stability to some extent during the course of the day.

Observed weather on Friday, 27.3.2015

In southern regions skies were clear on Thursday night. In northern regions there was a small amount of snowfall. Throughout the course of the day it was quite sunny in the southern Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps. In other regions skies were heavily overcast by and large and there was light snowfall intermittently. The snowfall level descended to below 1000 m.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday afternoon the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- Northern flank of the Alps east of the Jungfrau: 10 to 15 cm
- Remaining western sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, Lower Engadine, Val Müstair: 5 to 10 cm
- In other regions, less; in southern regions it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in northern regions and 0 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Moderate to strong velocity winds were blowing from northerly directions.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 28.3.2015

In western and southern regions, skies are expected to be clear tonight. In eastern regions there could be a few centimeters of snowfall in the early part of the night; subsequently, skies will clear up in those regions as well. To start with during the day it will be sunny everywhere in the Swiss Alps. During the afternoon cloud cover is expected to move in from the northwest.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +1 °C in western and southern regions and -3 °C in the furthest eastern regions.

Wind

Northwesterly to northerly winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity at high altitudes.

Outlook through Monday, 30.3.2015

Skies are expected to be heavily overcast on both days by and large. Except for in the furthestmost southern regions, repeated bouts of snowfall are anticipated, most of which is expected to fall in the furthestmost western regions and on the northern flank of the Alps. On Sunday, the amounts of precipitation will tend to be relatively minor; on Monday, the precipitation will be significantly greater. The snowfall level will lie between 1500 and 1800 m. At high altitudes a strong to storm velocity westerly to northwesterly wind will be blowing. On Monday, the danger of dry avalanches is expected to increase significantly in the furthestmost western regions and in northern regions more than anywhere else. In addition, as a result of the snowfall level being at a higher altitude, increasingly frequent wet-snow avalanches are expected on northern slopes below approximately 2000 m more than anywhere else.