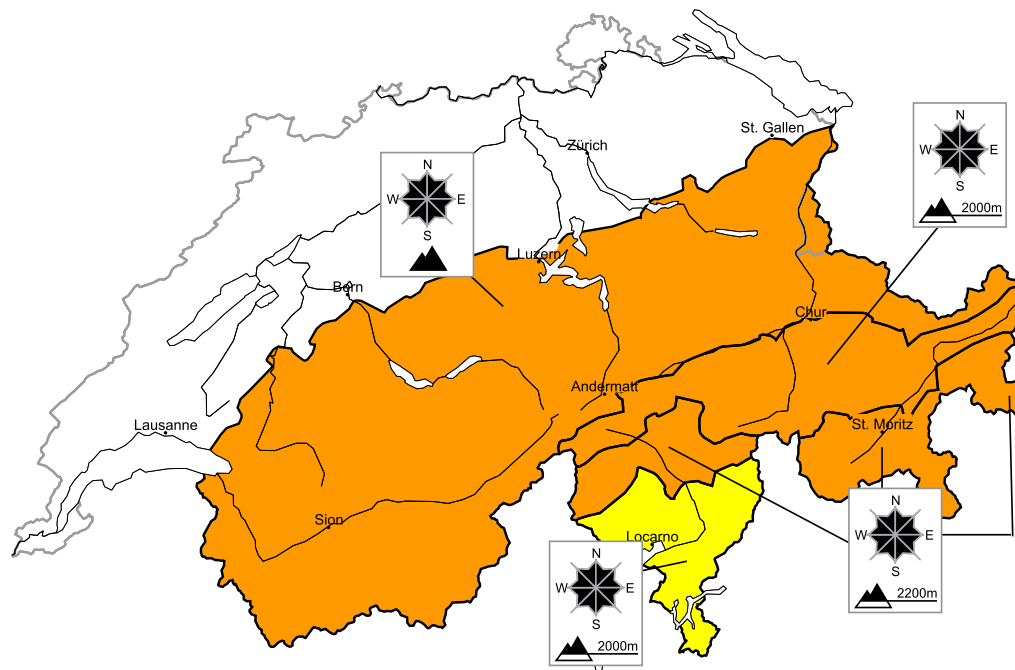


Significant increase in avalanche danger

Edition: 30.3.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 30.3.2015, 17:00

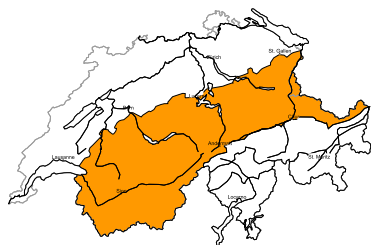
Avalanche danger

updated on 30.3.2015, 08:00



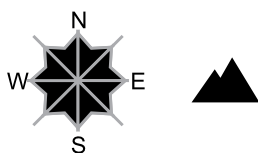
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather extensive snow drift accumulations will form. Even single persons can release avalanches easily, including medium-sized ones. Natural avalanches are to be expected. The danger level 4 (high) will be reached as the day progresses probably.

Southern Valais, Silvretta and Samnaun: In some places avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain more frequent wet avalanches are to be expected, in particular on north facing slopes below approximately 2200 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather extensive snow drift accumulations will form. Even single persons can release avalanches easily. As the day progresses natural avalanches are to be expected, including medium-sized ones.

Grisons: In some places avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size.

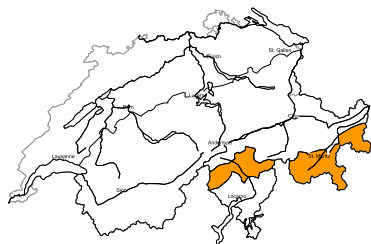
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain more frequent wet avalanches are to be expected, in particular on north facing slopes below approximately 2200 m.

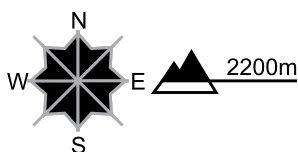
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather snow drift accumulations will form. Even single persons can release avalanches easily. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses.

Lower Engadine south of the Inn and Val Müstair: In some places avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain more frequent wet avalanches are to be expected, in particular on north facing slopes below approximately 2200 m.

region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind mostly small snow drift accumulations will form. Even single persons can release avalanches. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Ski touring calls for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches

Individual mostly small moist snow slides and avalanches are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 29.3.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of snowfall and storm winds, wide ranging snowdrift accumulations are forming in northern regions. Avalanches can easily be triggered and subsequently attain medium size. In the major areas of precipitation, furthermore, naturally triggered avalanches can be expected.

Embedded deeper down 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 fracture down to these buried layers and sweep away the old snowpack, thereby attaining dangerously large size.

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 degree of the general snowpack wetness is amplifying. As a result of the temporarily heightened snowfall level altitude, even north facing slopes below 2000 m are becoming wet. In those areas more than anywhere else, increasingly frequent wet-snow avalanches can be expected.

Observed weather on Sunday, 29.3.2015

Only in southern regions were the skies partially clear. In northern regions there was a small amount of snowfall above approximately 1600 m in the early part of the night. Over the course of the day skies in northern regions remained heavily overcast; during the morning precipitation set in from the northwest. The snowfall level was at approximately 1800 m. In Grisons there were intermittent bright intervals. In southern regions it was quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday evening above 2000 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps: 5 to 15 cm
- In other regions, less; in southern regions it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +1 °C in northern regions and +4 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds from westerly directions blowing predominantly at moderate strength, intensifying to strong velocity on the northern flank of the Alps during the course of the day.

Weather forecast through Monday, 30.3.2015

Skies will be heavily overcast for the most part. Only in the furthestmost southern regions can bright intervals be expected. In northern regions the snowfall is expected to be heavy. The snowfall level will fluctuate between 1200 and 1800 m.

Fresh snow

Between Sunday evening and Monday evening above approximately 2000 m, the following amounts of new fallen snow are anticipated:

- Northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, Lower Valais, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 40 to 60 cm
- Remaining parts of Upper Valais, central Grisons, northern Lower Engadine: 20 to 40 cm
- Northern Ticino, alto Moesano, Upper Engadine, remaining parts of Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm
- Further south, less; or it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C in northern regions and +1 °C in southern regions.

Wind

On the northern flank of the Alps, as well as in general at high altitudes, strong to storm-velocity westerly to northwesterly winds will be blowing.

Outlook through Wednesday, 1.4.2015

Tuesday

Skies are expected to be heavily overcast by and large. In the furthestmost western regions, as well as on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, snowfall is anticipated, which particularly during the night will be heavy, accompanied by storm-strength westerly to northwesterly winds. The snowfall level could temporarily ascend to above 2000 m, but otherwise will hover around approximately 1600 m. In southern regions, it will be quite sunny. In northern regions, the conditions for backcountry snow sports in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs will be critical. In addition, the temporarily heightened snowfall altitude level will make wet-snow avalanches more likely, particularly on north facing slopes.

Wednesday

In northern regions more than anywhere else, ongoing further precipitation can be expected. The snowfall level is expected to descend to below 1000 m. During the course of the day, scattered bright intervals will become evident. Strong velocity westerly winds will continue to prevail. In southern regions it will be sunny. The avalanche scenario will remain critical in northern regions. The danger of wet avalanches is expected to incrementally diminish as temperatures recede.