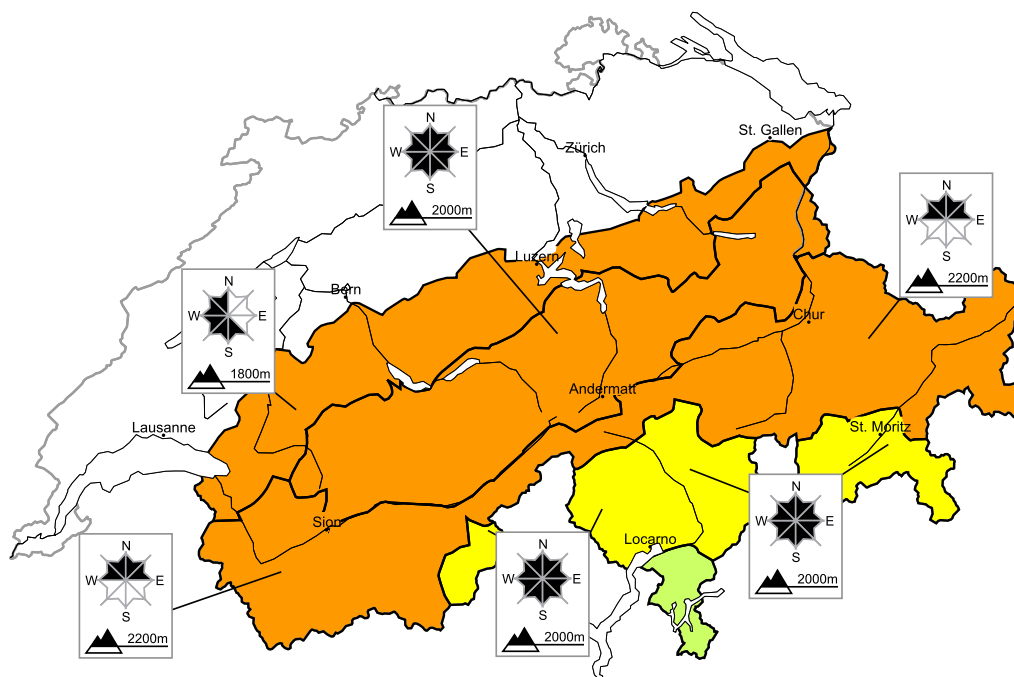


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 5.4.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 5.4.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 5.4.2015, 08:00



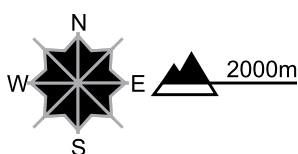
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

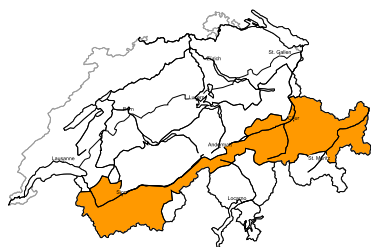
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of Saturday represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released easily and reach a dangerous size. The deep snow drift accumulations of last week can be released, especially by large additional loads. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Full-depth avalanches

In all aspects individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

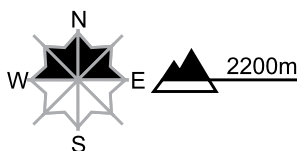
region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

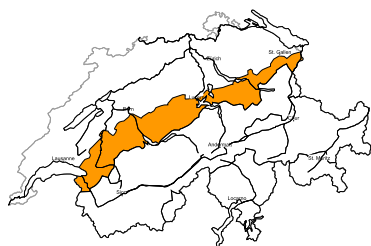
Fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Above approximately 3000 m the avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in deeper layers in little used backcountry terrain. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Full-depth avalanches

In all aspects individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

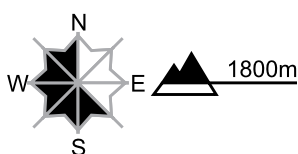
region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

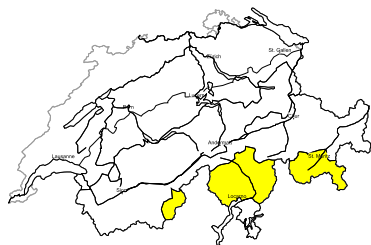
As a consequence of the Bise wind snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided in steep terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Full-depth avalanches

In all aspects individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

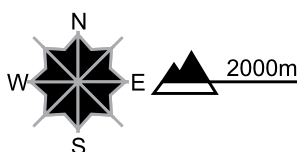
region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

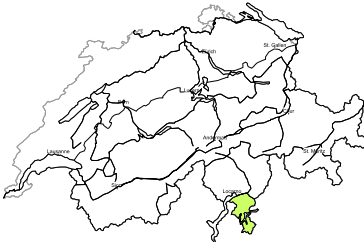


Danger description

In some localities small snow drift accumulations will form. Older snow drift accumulations can be released, especially by large additional loads,. Ski touring calls for careful route selection.

region E

Level 1, low



Favourable situation

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found especially in extremely steep terrain. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.4.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

On Saturday, snowdrift accumulations which are easily triggered formed in areas adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas more than anywhere else. In regions far and wide, the snowdrift accumulations (which in many places are quite deep) have now been blanketed by fresh fallen snow. This makes them particularly difficult to recognize. These drifted masses can be triggered primarily by large additional loading.

On the Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon region into the Bernina region and southwards therefrom, the structure of the snowpack is favourable for the most part. In the remaining regions, particularly on west, north and east facing slopes at high altitudes, there are weak layers of faceted snow crystals embedded deeper inside the snow cover in many places. Where these buried layers are prevalent inside the old snowpack, avalanches can in isolated cases fracture all the way down to them and sweep away the snowpack. These avalanche prone locations are nearly impossible to discern. Beneath the fresh fallen and freshly drifted snow of the last few days, the snow cover on south facing slopes below approximately 2800 m; on west and east facing slopes below approximately 2300 m; and on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m, is thoroughly wet.

Observed weather on Saturday, 4.4.2015

Skies were overcast. There was intermittent snowfall, particularly on the northern flank of the Alps. The snowfall level descended down towards 1000 m.

Fresh snow

Above 2000 m:

- Northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais, 15 to 30 cm; in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, as much as 40 cm from place to place
- Upper Valais, northern and central Grisons, Lower Engadine, 5 to 15 cm
- Southern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of southern Grisons; less than 5 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C

Wind

Light winds, blowing intermittently at moderate strength at high altitudes, shifting from westerly to northerly.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 5.4.2015

During the night in northern regions, snowfall is anticipated which will extend down to low lying areas for brief interims. During the morning skies will be heavily overcast for the most part. During the afternoon it will turn increasingly sunny. In southern regions it will be quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Above 1000 m:

- Northern flank of the Alps, 5 to 15 cm
- Valais, Grisons, approximately 5 cm; elsewhere, predominantly dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in western and southern regions and -9 °C in northeastern regions

Wind

Moderate northeasterly winds; in the Prealps, a moderate to strong velocity wise wind will be blowing.

Outlook through Tuesday, 7.4.2015

On both days it will be sunny during the morning. During the course of the day there will be convective cloud build-up. A small amount of snowfall is possible. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to subside. The danger of wet-snow avalanches and full depth wet snowslides is expected to increase over the course of each day.