Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 6 April 2015

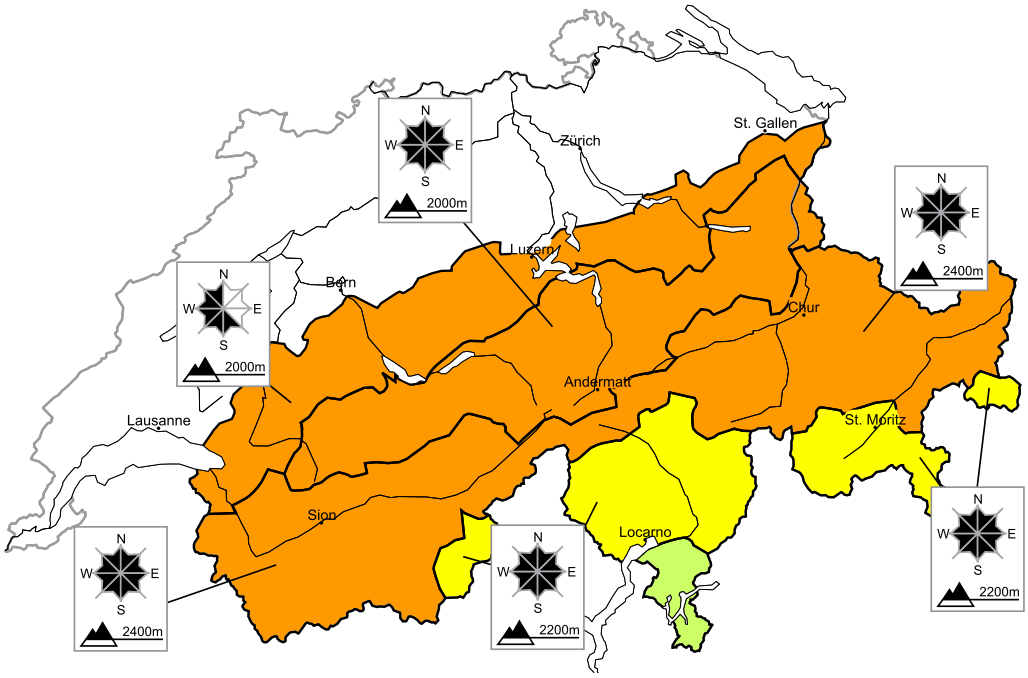
6.4.2015, 07:37

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Snow drifts require caution

Edition: 6.4.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 6.4.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

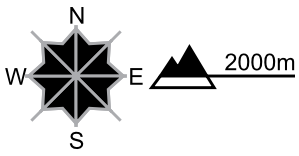
updated on 6.4.2015, 08:00



region A | **Level 3, considerable**

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



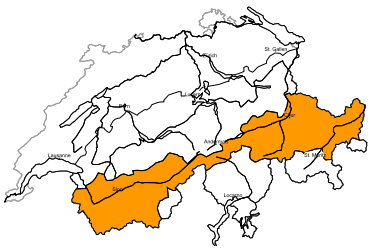
Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. As a consequence of the moderate to strong northerly wind the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. Avalanches can be released easily and reach a dangerous size. As a consequence of solar radiation individual natural avalanches are possible. 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

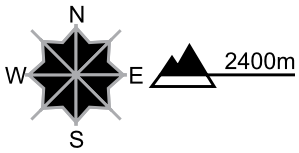
In all aspects individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2200 m.

region B — Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. As a consequence of the moderate to strong northerly wind the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. As a consequence of solar radiation individual natural avalanches are possible. 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.

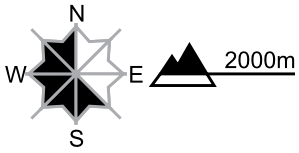
Full-depth avalanches

In all aspects individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2200 m.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. They are to be avoided especially in steep terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

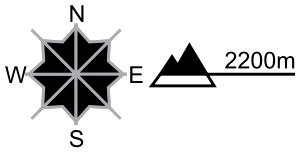
Full-depth avalanches

In all aspects individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2200 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.

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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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 5.4.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

In high alpine regions more than anywhere else, as well as in areas adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas, snowdrift accumulations which are easily triggered are forming as a result of strong velocity northerly winds.
In most regions of the Swiss Alps the snowdrift accumulations which formed during the course of last week, and which in many places are quite deep, have been blanketed by fresh fallen snow, which makes them quite difficult to recognize. They 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 snowpack structure is for the most part favourable. In the remaining regions, particularly at high altitudes on west, north and east facing slopes, there are weakened layers consisting of faceted snow crystals evident deeper down inside the snow cover in some places. These layers can in isolated cases trigger avalanches which then fracture down to the more deeply embedded points and sweep away the entire snowpack. Such avalanche prone locations are nearly impossible to discern from the surface.
Beneath the new fallen and newly drifted snow of the last few days the snowpack on southern facing slopes below approximately 2800 m; on west facing and east facing slopes below approximately 2300 m; and on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m, is thoroughly wet.

Observed weather on Sunday, 5.4.2015

On the southern flank of the Alps, and in high alpine regions in general, it was quite sunny. In other regions there was intermittent snowfall. During the afternoon it turned increasingly sunny in western regions. In northeastern regions skies remained heavily overcast for the most part.

Fresh snow

On the northern flank of the Alps and in Lower Valais there was an additional round of snowfall bringing a further 10 to 20 cm of fresh fallen snow; in western regions as much as 30 cm of snowfall. Thus, between Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon above 2000 m, the following overall amounts of new fallen snow were registered:

- Northern flank of the Alps: 30 to 50 cm
- Lower Valais and northern Valais, northern Grisons: 15 to 30 cm
- Remaining parts of Valais, central Grisons, Lower Engadine: 5 to 15 cm
- In other regions it remained predominantly dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -8 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds were blowing generally at light strength, at moderate strength in areas adjacent to ridgelines, in pass areas and in the Prealps, from the northeast

Weather forecast through Monday, 6.4.2015

Skies are expected to be clear during the night. Following a sunny morning in northern and eastern regions, cloud cover is expected to move in. There could be a small amount of snowfall. In the Valais and in southern regions it will remain sunny.

Fresh snow

Central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons: only a few centimeters.
Elsewhere it is expected to remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -5 °C in western and southern regions and -9 °C in northeastern regions.

Wind

Winds will be blowing at moderate strength at high altitudes, intensifying to strong velocity during the afternoon, as well as in high alpine regions in general, from the north to northeast.

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Outlook through Wednesday, 8.4.2015

Subsequent to the residual cloud dispersing in eastern regions on Tuesday morning, it will turn sunny and remain so on both days. The zero-degree level is expected to ascend, reaching approximately 3000 m by Wednesday. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to subside. The danger of wet avalanches and full depth wet snowslides is expected to increase significantly, particularly during the course of the day on Wednesday.