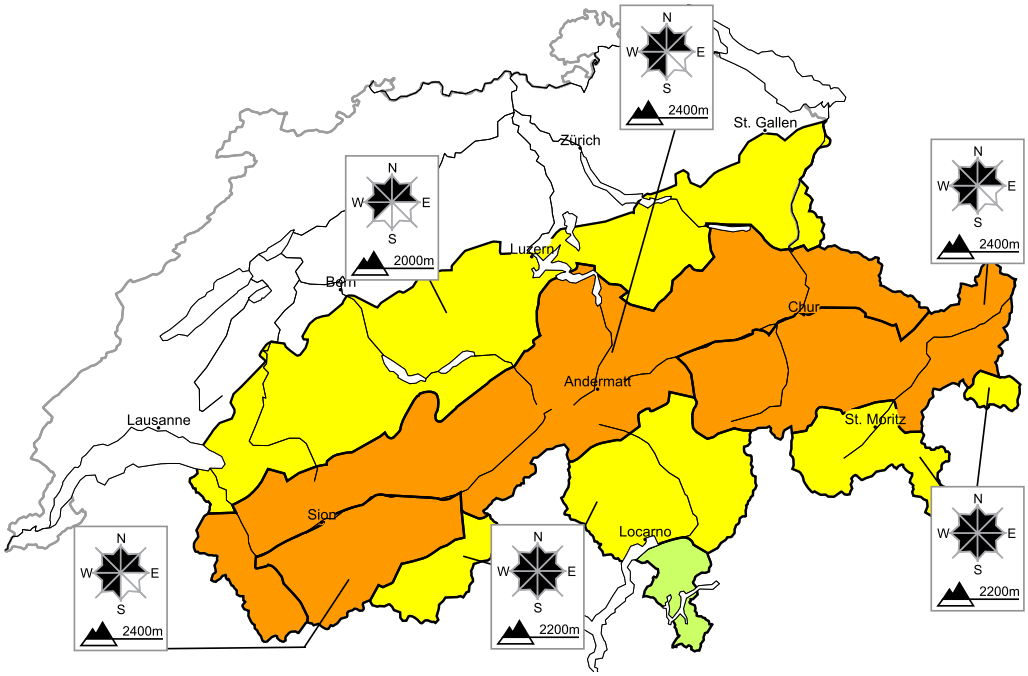
Snow drifts require caution, in particular at elevated altitudes

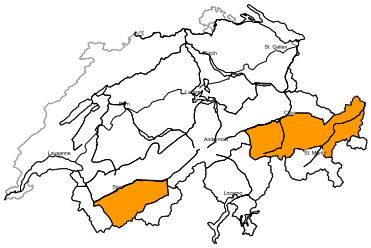
Edition: 7.4.2015, 08:00 / Next update: 7.4.2015, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 7.4.2015, 08:00

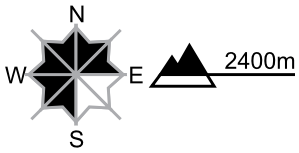


region A | **Level 3, considerable**



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, Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation there will be an increase in the danger of wet and full-depth avalanches. As the day progresses more frequent full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. This applies on south facing slopes in particular below approximately 2500 m and on north facing slopes in particular below approximately 2000 m.

Danger levels 1 low | 2 moderate | 3 consider. | 4 high | 5 very high

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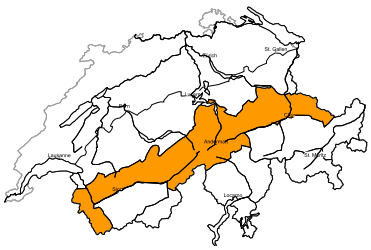
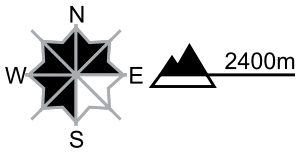
region B — Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



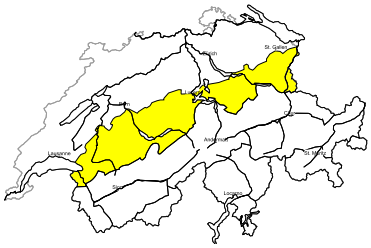
Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. Above approximately 3000 m the avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects. Avalanches can be released easily and reach a dangerous size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

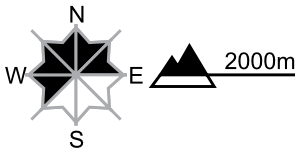
As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation there will be an increase in the danger of wet and full-depth avalanches. As the day progresses more frequent full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. This applies on south facing slopes in particular below approximately 2500 m and on north facing slopes in particular below approximately 2000 m.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The more recent snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation there will be an increase in the danger of wet and full-depth avalanches. As the day progresses more frequent full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. This applies on south facing slopes in particular below approximately 2500 m and on north facing slopes in particular below approximately 2000 m.

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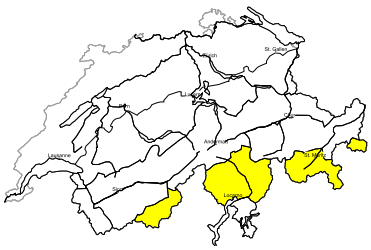
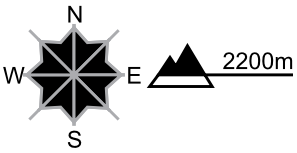
region D — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



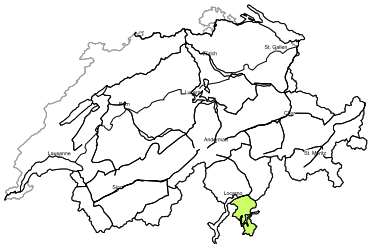
Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches, Wet avalanches as day progresses

As the day progresses individual full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. This applies in particular below approximately 2200 m.

region E — Level 1, low



Favourable situation

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found especially in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 6.4.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of the strong northeasterly wind, snow drift accumulations that are easily released have formed in the high Alpine regions and adjacent to ridge lines and in pass areas in particular.
In southern Valais and the inneralpine regions of Grisons in particular, avalanches can penetrate deep layers of the old snowpack in isolated cases. These avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on west, north and east facing slopes at high altitudes and are barely recognisable. In the other regions, avalanches are unlikely to be released in deeper layers of the snowpack; they are least likely to occur on the southern flank of the Alps.
Underneath the fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of recent days, the snowpack is moist all the way through 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.

Observed weather on Monday, 6.4.2015

The west and south were sunny. In the east, cloud built up after a sunny morning. A few centimetres of snow fell in some localities.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -8 °C in the north and -3 °C in the south

Wind

At high altitudes mostly moderate from the north

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 7.4.2015

Monday night will be clear in the west and south, but partly cloudy in the east. Here, a little further snow will fall even at low altitudes. During the day, the weather will be mostly sunny.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -2 °C in the west and south, and -6 °C in the northeast

Wind

At high altitudes strong to storm force from the north to northeast, easing a little as the day progresses

Outlook through Thursday, 9.4.2015

Each of the next two days will be sunny and much milder. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. The danger of both wet snow and full-depth avalanches will increase significantly during each of the next two days.