Avalanche bulletin through Saturday, 11 April 2015

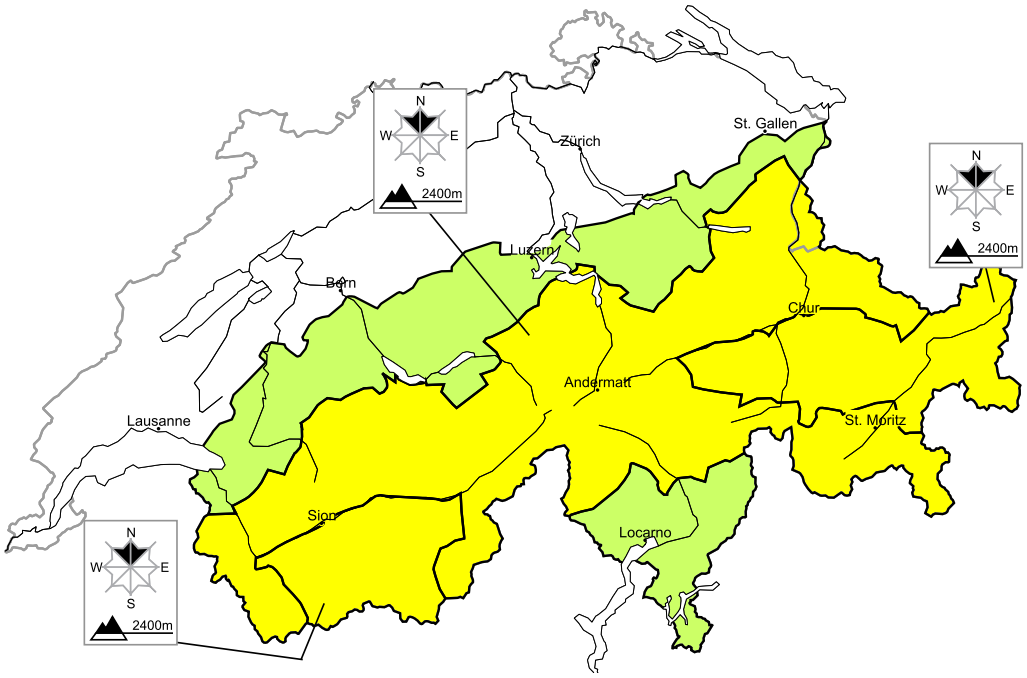
10.4.2015, 16:46

In the early morning a generally favourable avalanche situation will prevail. Increase in danger of wet and full-depth avalanches as the day progresses

Edition: 10.4.2015, 17:00 / Next update: 11.4.2015, 17:00

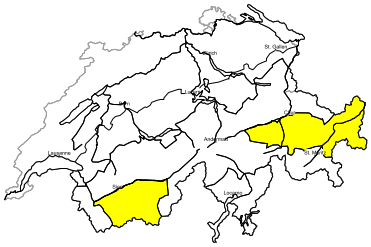
Dry avalanches

updated on 10.4.2015, 17:00



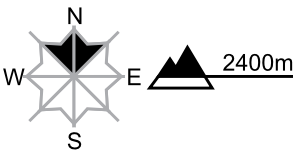
Dry, region A

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In some places avalanches can be released in deep layers and reach medium size in isolated cases. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in little used backcountry terrain and at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.
Older snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.
High Alpine regions: These avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects.
Careful route selection is recommended.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

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

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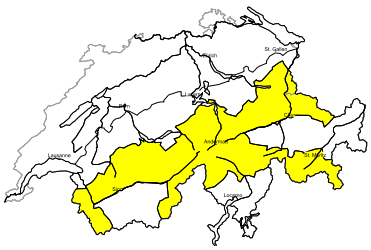
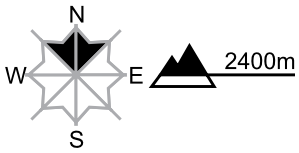
Dry, region B — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations

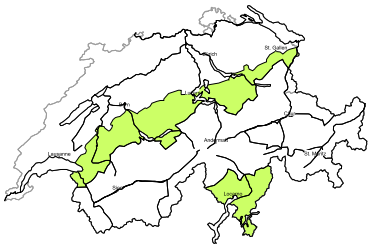


Danger description

Older snow drift accumulations 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. In high Alpine regions the avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects. Careful route selection is recommended.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, region C — Level 1, low



Favourable situation

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular on extremely steep north facing slopes. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

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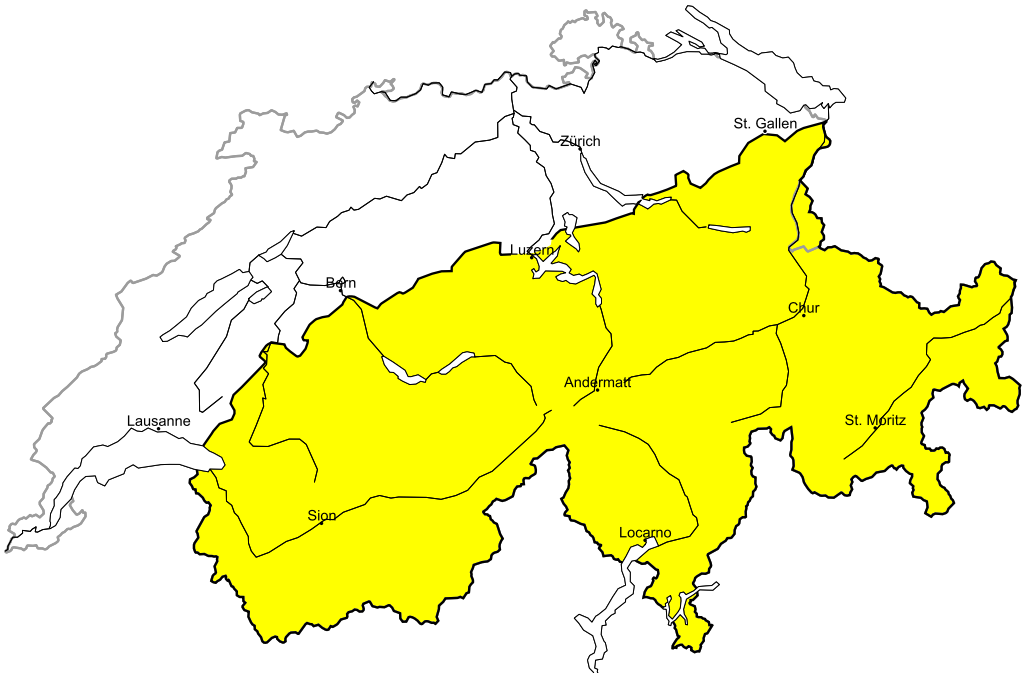
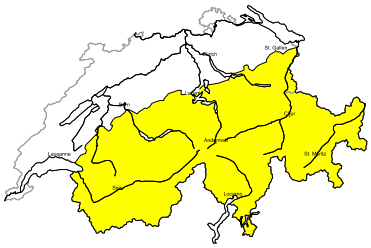
Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 10.4.2015, 17:00



Wet | Level 2, moderate



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 small to medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. This applies on south facing slopes in particular below approximately 3000 m and on east and west facing slopes in particular below approximately 2500 m. North facing slopes: Below approximately 2000 m small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized wet avalanches are possible.
Individual full-depth avalanches can also be released in the night or in the morning.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.4.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

The snow cover on south facing slopes below approximately 3000 m; on west and east facing slopes below approximately 2500 m; and on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m, is for the most part thoroughly wet. During the night of partially clear skies the snowpack surface froze only very weakly up to intermediate altitudes. On steep south facing slopes a melt-freeze crust which is generally capable of bearing loads tends to form at high altitudes. On east and west facing slopes the uppermost surface layer of the snow cover is fragile and breakable in some places. On steep north facing sloeps there is still loosely-packed snow evident in some zones above approximately 2500 m. During the course of the day the snowpack tends to soften quite rapidly as a result of sunshine and daytime warming. Subsequently its structure weakens, particularly in those regions where sunshine is most intensive.
In southern Valais and in the inneralpine regions of Grisons more than anywhere else, slab avalanches can in isolated cases fracture down to more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack and sweep the entire snowmass away. These avalanche prone locations are found at high altitudes on west, north and east facing slopes more than anywhere else and are nearly impossible to recognize. In the remaining regions, avalanche releases from the deeper-down layers of the old snow cover are improbable, least likely of all on the southern flank of the Alps.
In addition, the now somewhat older snowdrift accumulations need to be evaluated with special caution in high alpine regions as well as in areas adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas, more than anywhere else.

Observed weather on Friday, 10.4.2015

It was sunny for the most part, accompanied by high altitude cloudbanks over the course of the day.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +6 °C. The zero-degree level was at 3000 m.

Wind

Light to moderate strength winds were blowing from southerly directions.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 11.4.2015

On Friday night skies will be partially overcast. During the day on Saturday it is expected to be only partially sunny in northern regions, accompanied by dense cloudbanks in some places. In southern Valais, in Ticino, as well as in central and southern Grisons it will be predominantly sunny. During the course of the day, convective cloud is expected to build up. On the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else, light showers are possible during the afternoon. The snowfall level will be at 2000 m.

Fresh snow

Only a few centimeters from place to place, falling in the form of showers.

Temperature

Temperatures are expected to drop somewhat, the zero-degree level will be at 2200 m in northern regions, at 2500 m in southern regions.

Wind

Southwesterly to westerly winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength. In high alpine regions winds will be westerly, blowing at moderate velocity.

Outlook through Monday, 13.4.2015

On Sunday and Monday it will be sunny by and large, accompanied by cloudbanks in northern regions more than anywhere else, with convective cloud build-up anticipated during the course of the day. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to decrease. The danger of wet-snow avalanches and full depth wet snowslides is expected to increase during the course of each day as a result of solar radiation and daytime warming.