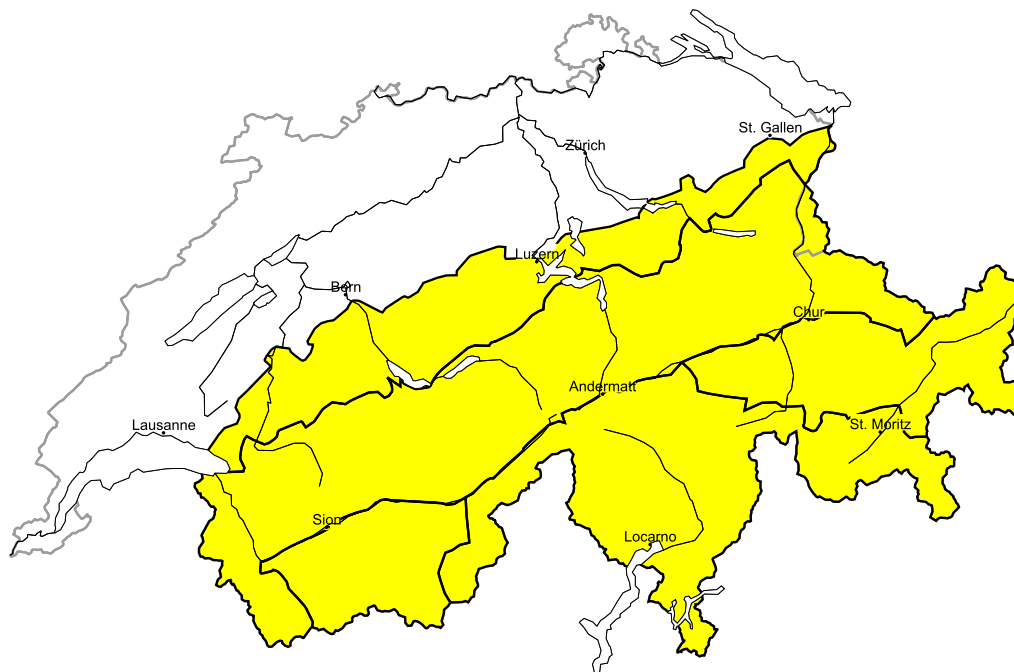


Wet avalanches are the main danger

Edition: 18.4.2015, 17:00 / Next update: 19.4.2015, 17:00

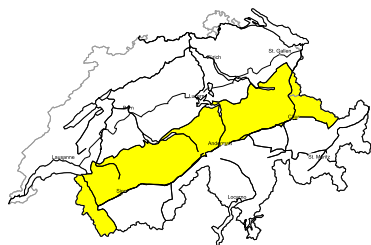
Avalanche danger

updated on 18.4.2015, 17:00



region A

Level 2, moderate



Wet and full-depth avalanches

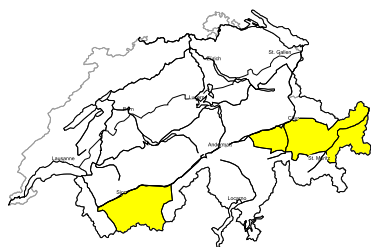
From late morning wet avalanches are possible. As a consequence of warming during the day there will be an additional increase in the avalanche danger to level 3 (considerable). Small and medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. Very isolated large avalanches are possible as before. Caution is to be exercised on south facing slopes in particular below approximately 3200 m and on north facing slopes in particular below approximately 2500 m. Backcountry tours and ascents to alpine cabins should be concluded early.

Snow drifts

The avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line. This applies in particular on north facing slopes above approximately 2500 m as well as in high Alpine regions. The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but to be assessed with care and prudence.

region B

Level 2, moderate



Wet and full-depth avalanches

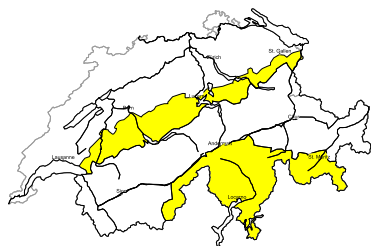
From late morning wet avalanches are possible. As a consequence of warming during the day there will be an additional increase in the avalanche danger to level 3 (considerable). Small and medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. Additionally wet avalanches can release deeper layers of the snowpack and reach quite a large size. Caution is to be exercised on south facing slopes in particular below approximately 3200 m and on north facing slopes in particular below approximately 2500 m. Backcountry tours and ascents to alpine cabins should be concluded early.

Snow drifts

High Alpine regions: Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised also in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

region C

Level 2, moderate



Wet and full-depth avalanches

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night will be barely evident. As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more small to medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in particular on south facing slopes below approximately 3200 m and on north facing slopes below approximately 2500 m.

Snow drifts

High Alpine regions: Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised also in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 18.4.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

The avalanche scenario is akin to in deep winter, particularly in high alpine regions, although with only little fresh fallen snow and generally small-sized snowdrift accumulations. On south facing slopes the old snowpack is wet beneath approximately 3200 m; on west and east facing slopes beneath approximately 2800 m; and on north facing slopes below approximately 2500 m. As a result of rainfall which in some places fell up to 2500 m, the snow cover was weakened another notch. Below approximately 2800 m, numerous wet-snow avalanches and full depth wet snowslides released, including on north facing slopes.

On Saturday night, particularly in western and southern regions, skies will be overcast and nocturnal outgoing longwave radiation will be reduced as a consequence. The snowpack surface is incapable of freezing in these regions. In the other regions a thin crust forms, which in the course of the day rapidly softens and melts. Wet-snow avalanches are possible in all aspects and can be triggered even by the weight of persons. Particularly in the Valais and in Grisons, to a certain degree on the northern flank of the Alps, wet-snow avalanches can fracture down to more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack. This is particularly the case on north facing slopes at high altitudes.

Observed weather on Saturday, 18.4.2015

On Friday night skies were overcast and there was precipitation, most of which fell on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons. The snowfall level descended to approximately 2200 m in western regions and down to approximately 1400 m in eastern regions. The precipitation came to an end during the course of the morning and skies brightened to an increasing degree. In southern regions it was predominantly sunny accompanied by convective cloud build-up during the afternoon.

Fresh snow

Above approximately 2500 m:

- Northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Alps to Liechtenstein, northern Grisons: 10 - 25 cm over widespread areas, more from place to place
- Remaining parts of the western sector of northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, Gotthard region, northern Lower Engadine: 5 to 10 cm
- In other regions, only a few centimeters.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in western regions, -1 °C in eastern regions and +4 °C in southern regions

Wind

Light to moderate winds will be blowing from northerly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 19.4.2015

On the southern flank of the Alps, skies will be overcast accompanied by light showers during the night and tomorrow morning. Thereafter it will turn increasingly sunny.

In the remaining regions skies will be predominantly clear accompanied by lots of sunshine. During the afternoon, convective cloud build-up is anticipated over widespread areas, in western regions more than anywhere else.

Fresh snow

On the southern flank of the Alps above 2200 m, 5 cm of snowfall; elsewhere, less or it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in northern regions and 0 °C in southern regions

Wind

Light winds will prevail, from varying directions.

Outlook through Tuesday, 21.4.2015

On both days it will be predominantly sunny accompanied by convective cloud build-up during the course of the day. The freezing level is expected to climb, on Tuesday to 3000 m. Avalanche danger will be contingent on a daytime danger cycle: a favourable avalanche scenario will prevail in the early morning hours, then the danger level for wet-snow avalanches will increase over the course of the day. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain and ascents to alpine huts should be terminated early in the day.