Avalanche bulletin through Friday, 24 April 2015

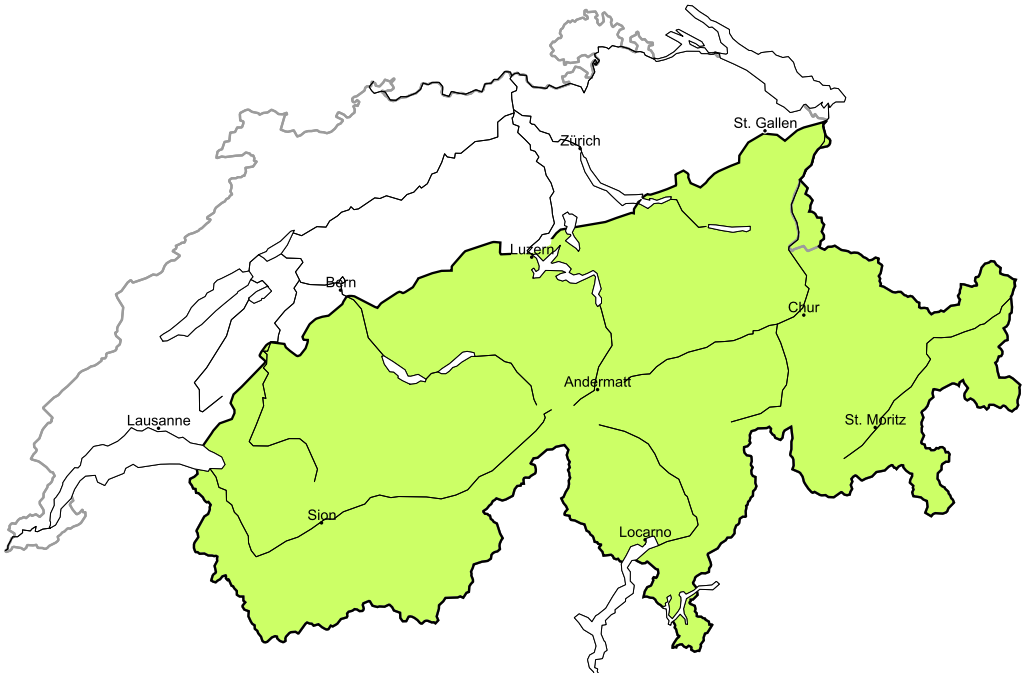
23.4.2015, 16:23

A favourable early-morning avalanche situation will prevail. Increase in danger of wet avalanches as the day progresses

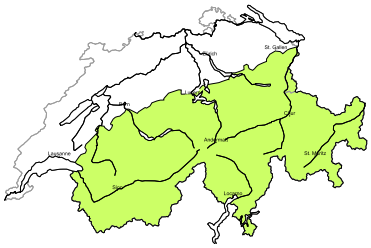
Edition: 23.4.2015, 17:00 / Next update: 24.4.2015, 17:00

Dry avalanches

updated on 23.4.2015, 17:00



Dry | **Level 1, low**



Favourable situation

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in high Alpine regions and in extremely steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

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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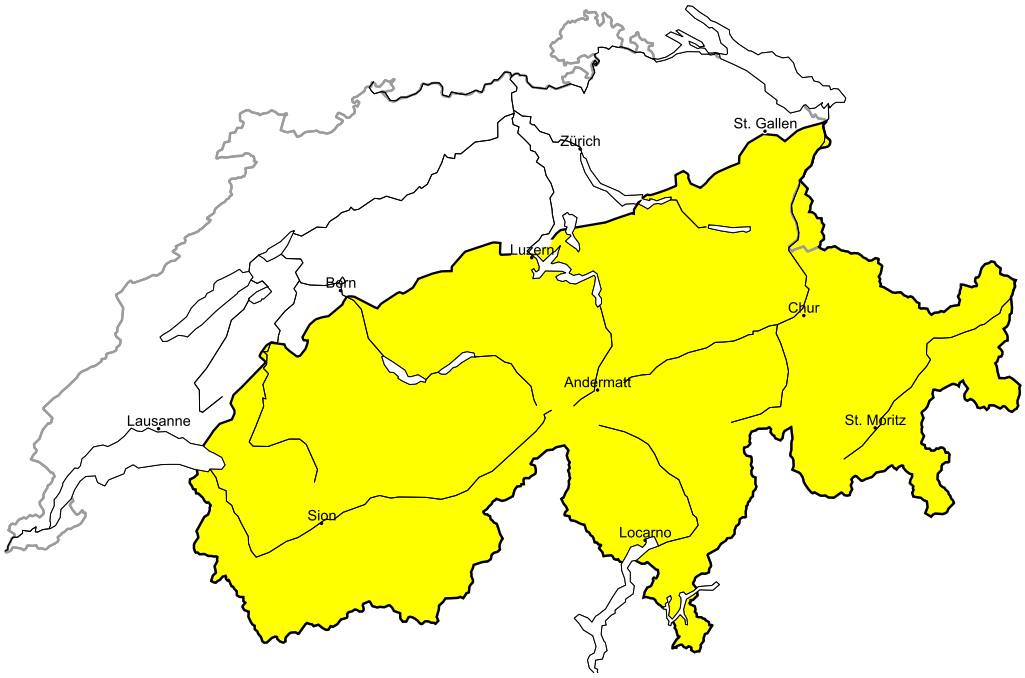
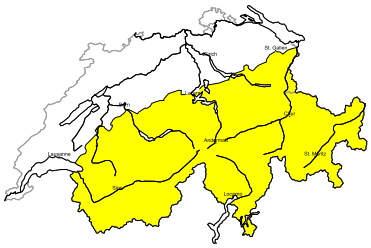
Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 23.4.2015, 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 avalanche danger. In the afternoon small and medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are possible. Especially in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow avalanches can release the entire snowpack. Caution is to be exercised on steep sunny slopes in particular below approximately 3000 m as well as on north facing slopes in particular below approximately 2500 m.
Backcountry tours and ascents to alpine cabins should be concluded timely.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Snowpack and weather

updated on 23.4.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

The snow cover shows heavy impact from daytime warmth and sunshine of the last few days. On south facing slopes up to approximately 3200 m; on west and east facing slopes up to approximately 2800 m; and on north facing slopes up to approximately 2500 m, the snowpack is thoroughly wet.
On Thursday night, during which skies will be clear, a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads is expected to form over widespread areas. Subsequently the crust will soften, melt and deteriorate during the course of the day. Wet-snow avalanches may possibly release in the afternoon on steep slopes which have not yet discharged. In the Valais and in Grisons more than anywhere else, to some extent on the northern flank of the Alps, wet-snow avalanches can fracture down to more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack and sweep away the entire snowmass. This danger threatens in particular on north facing slopes at high altitudes.
The snow line on north facing slopes lies between 1500 m (in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps) and 1900 m (in southern Valais, in the Engadine and in southern regions). On south facing slopes the snow line lies approximately 400 m higher up.

Observed weather on Thursday, 23.4.2015

Skies were clear during the night. As of midday, convective clouds built up. It remained dry.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +6 °C in western and southern regions and +3 °C in eastern regions

Wind

In western and southern regions, winds were blowing lightly; in northeastern regions at moderate strength, intermittently at strong velocity, from westerly to northwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Friday, 24.4.2015

Following a night of clear skies it will be sunny during the morning. In the afternoon, convective clouds will once again build up. It will remain dry.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +7 °C in western and southern regions and +4 °C in northeastern regions

Wind

Light to moderate strength winds will be blowing, during the course of the day shifting from northwesterly to southwesterly.

Outlook through Sunday, 26.4.2015

On Friday night in western and southern regions, percipitation is expected to set in. On Saturday morning in eastern regions, foehn conditions will still prevail: skies will be bright and it will be dry. Elsewhere skies will be heavily overcast in all regions on both days. Above approximately 2200 m intermittent snowfall is anticipated. The danger of dry avalanches could increase somewhat in high alpine regions more than anywhere else. Wet-snow avalanches can also release, particularly in the regions and at altitudes where there was rainfall.