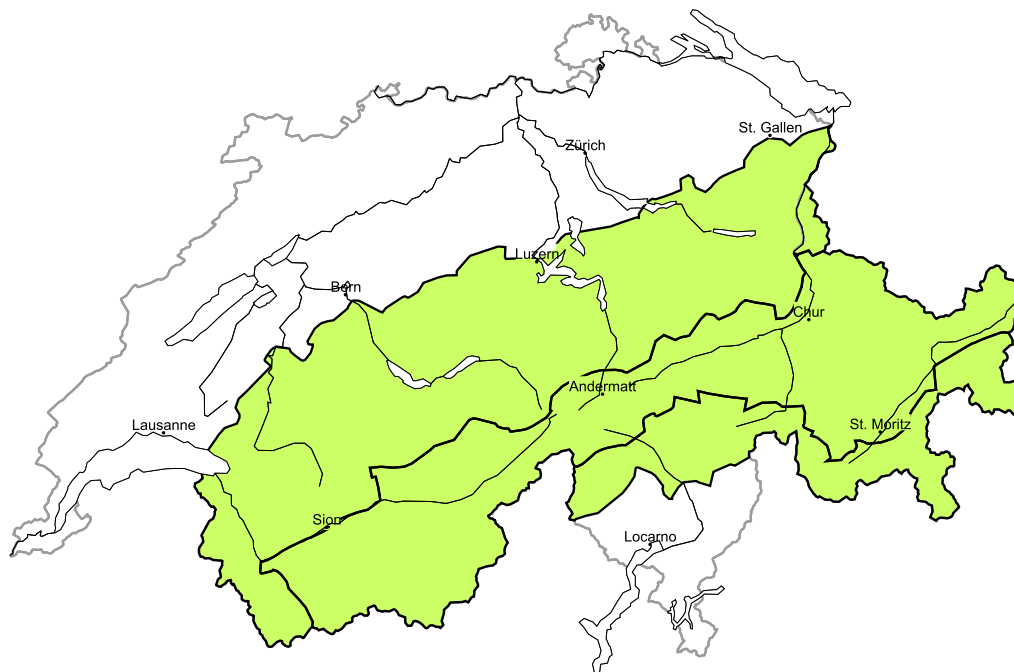


Low avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 30.12.2015, 17:00 / Next update: 31.12.2015, 17:00

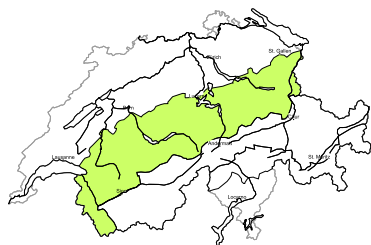
Avalanche danger

updated on 30.12.2015, 17:00



region A

Level 1, low

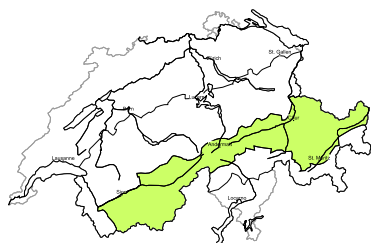


Snow drifts

At elevated altitudes snow drift accumulations have formed. These are only small but prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are rare and clearly recognisable to the trained eye. 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.

region B

Level 1, low

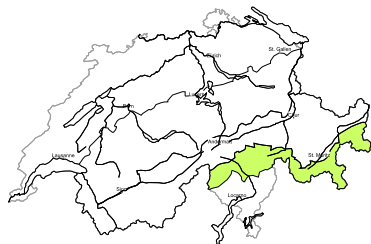


Old snow

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on very steep north facing slopes and in gullies and bowls. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. Very steep shady slopes are to be traversed by snow sport participants one at a time. 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 1, low

**Favourable situation**

Only a little snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. This applies in particular on shady slopes above approximately 2500 m. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 30.12.2015, 17:00

Snowpack

In southern regions and in the Engadine, there is less snow for this juncture of the season than at any time since the historical launch of measurement-taking. However, in the other regions as well, the amounts of snow are distinctly lower than average.

In zones which are protected from winds, the snow cover in many places is heavily faceted and increasingly is loosely packed. In the northern sector of the Alpine Ridge, snowdrift accumulations have formed from place to place at high altitude as a result of moderate velocity southerly winds. The drifted masses are small-sized, but are prone to triggering. Overall, the avalanche prone locations occur very seldom. However, they are located for the most part on very steep north-facing slopes, in gullies and in bowls and tend to form precisely where off-piste winter sports are enjoyed, that is, the only places where they are currently possible.

On south-facing slopes, a crust forms during those nights with predominantly clear skies. Very steep south-facing slopes are completely bare of snow up to high altitudes, on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards thereof, nearly as high as 3000 m.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 30.12.2015

It was sunny in the Swiss Alps.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +3 °C in northern regions and 0 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- To begin with, moderate velocity northerly nocturnal winds on the Main Alpine Ridge.
- During the day in the northern sector of the Alpine Ridge, moderate velocity southerly winds; elsewhere blowing at light strength.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 31.12.2015

In eastern regions, the final bright spots will be registered during the morning. Elsewhere skies will be heavily overcast by and large. During the afternoon in the Prealps, light precipitation is expected to set in. The snowfall level is expected to drop down towards 1200 m.

Fresh snow

Just a few snowflakes in northern regions.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -1 °C in northern regions and +1 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Light to moderate strength westerly to southwesterly winds.

Outlook through Saturday, 2.1.2016

Friday

During the night of New Year's Eve in northern and eastern regions above approximately 1000 m, only a small amount of snowfall. In western and southern regions it will turn sunny already as of morning, in eastern regions it will become so during the course of the day. The avalanche danger is expected to increase only slightly in northern regions, in southern regions it is not expected to change.

Saturday

On Berchtold Day in eastern regions, bright intervals will be evident to start with, in other regions skies will be heavily overcast. From the west, snowfall is expected to set in above approximately 1200 m during the morning. The avalanche danger will increase in western regions more than anywhere else.