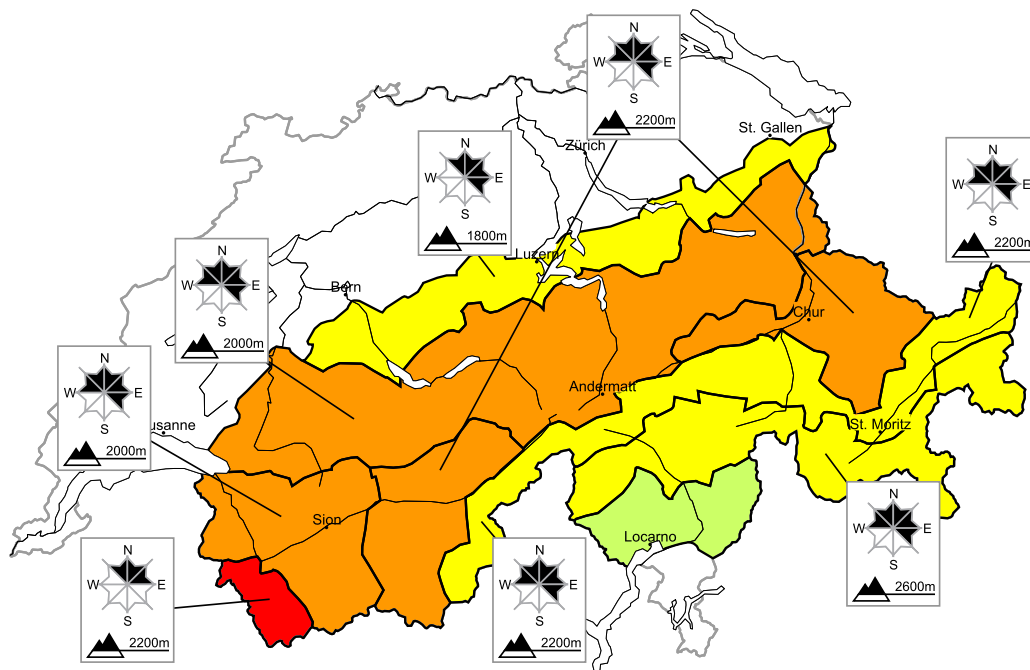


In the west a critical avalanche situation will prevail

Edition: 5.1.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 5.1.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 5.1.2016, 08:00



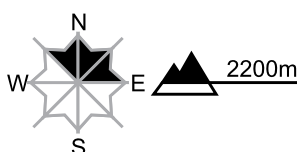
region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Remote triggering is possible. Individual natural avalanches are possible. The avalanches can scarcely reach the valleys. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for great caution and restraint.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



WSL Institute for Snow and
 Avalanche Research SLF
 www.slf.ch

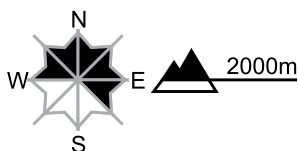
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

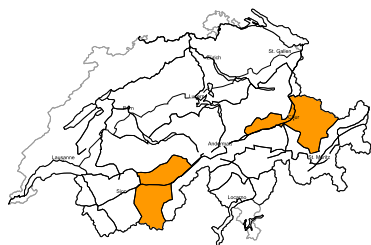


Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Remote triggering is possible. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for great caution and restraint.

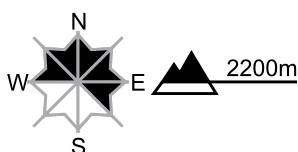
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

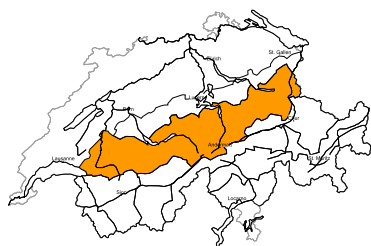


Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can be released very easily, but they will be small in most cases. Remote triggering is possible. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. 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.

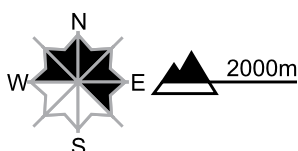
region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can be released very easily, but they will be small in most cases. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. 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.

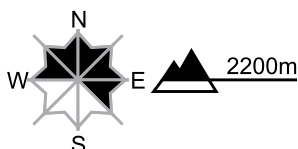
region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. They can in many cases be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular in steep rocky terrain as well as in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. 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.

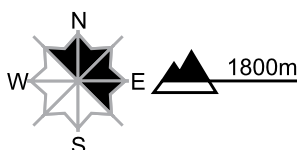
region F

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

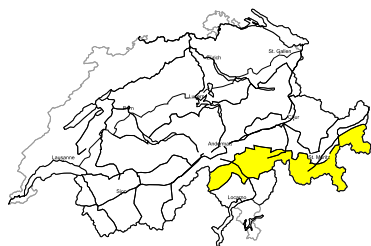


Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. 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.

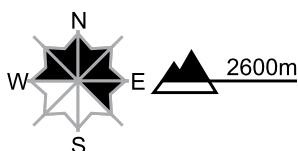
region G

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Only a little snow is lying. Fresh snow drift accumulations are only small but prone to triggering. They are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence in extreme terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region H

Level 1, low



Favourable situation

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.1.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

On wind-protected shady slopes at high altitudes and in the high Alpine regions over a wide area, the fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of recent days have been deposited on a highly faceted and loosely bonded snowpack, which in some places is covered with a layer of surface hoar. For this reason the more recently formed layers have bonded only very poorly with the old snowpack underneath.

Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can very easily be released, and avalanches can also occur naturally. Especially dangerous locations are steep north facing slopes and gullies and bowls where cohesive snow cover existed at the end of December.

On very steep south facing slopes the fresh snow has fallen mostly on a melt-freeze crust or even on bare ground.

Observed weather on Monday, 4.1.2016

The night skies were very cloudy. Snow fell in the west and north in particular.

During the day the weather was mostly very cloudy in the west and north. Snow fell at times. The snowfall level was between 1400 and 800 m. In the east and south it was sunny at times.

Fresh snow

Since Sunday afternoon the following amounts of snow have fallen:

- Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm; in the regions bordering France: up to 60 cm
- Northern flank of the Alps west of Adelboden, Upper Valais, western Ticino, Glarus Alps: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere: up to 10 cm

Since 1 January, 30 to 50 cm of fresh snow has fallen in the regions of Lower Valais exposed to heavier precipitation, and as much as 70 cm has fallen in some localities in the far west.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -5 °C

Wind

During the night: moderate to strong from the south to west

During the day on the northern flank of the Alps: strong at times, otherwise mostly light to moderate from the west

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 5.1.2016

The night skies will be very cloudy. Snow will fall in the second half of the night and in the morning. The snowfall level will be approximately 1000 m. In the afternoon it will become increasingly dry and sunny at times.

Fresh snow

- Northern Alpine ridge, Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm; extreme west of Lower Valais: up to 30 cm of fresh snow is possible
- Elsewhere: 5 to 10 cm
- Sotto Ceneri: dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -6 °C

Wind

Moderate to strong on the northern flank of the Alps, otherwise light to moderate from the west to southwest

Outlook through Thursday, 7.1.2016

In the north it will be mostly very cloudy. In the north and west snow will fall at times above 1000 m. The south will be bright at times and mostly dry. On Thursday the wind will pick up, becoming strong to storm force at times from the west. The avalanche danger will change very little. In particular in the west, the situation will remain critical for those engaging in winter sports.