Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 22 January 2016

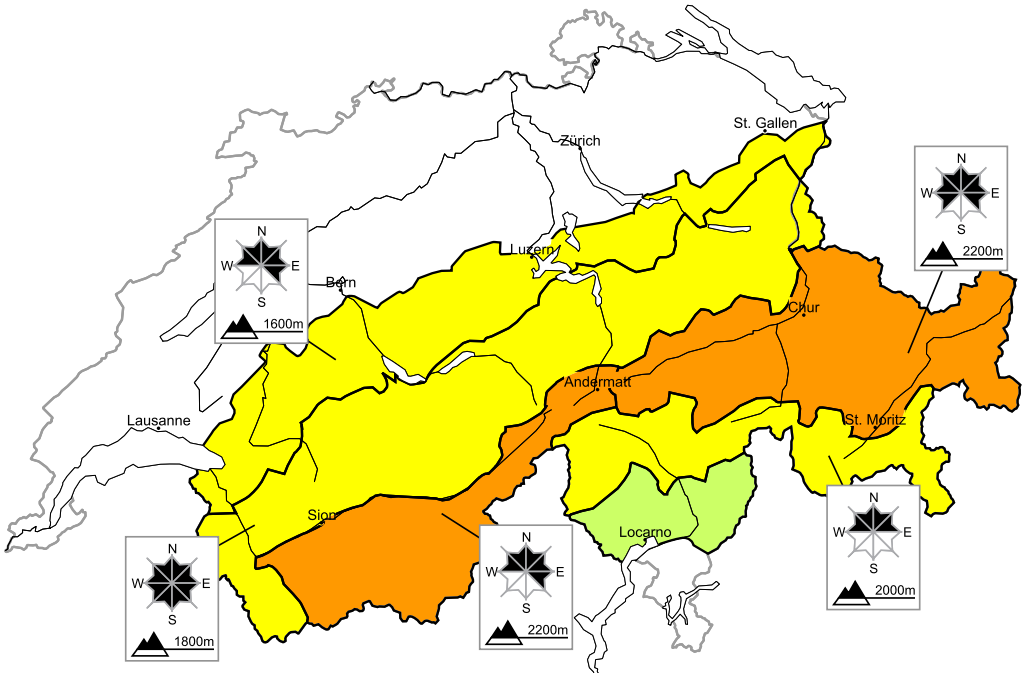
22.1.2016, 07:27

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 22.1.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 22.1.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

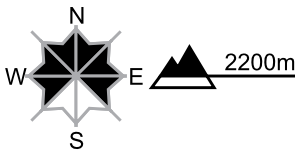
updated on 22.1.2016, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack. Here avalanches can be released in deep layers of the snowpack. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Remote triggering is possible. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Full-depth avalanches

Prättigau: Below approximately 2200 m small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. They can be released at any time of day or night.

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

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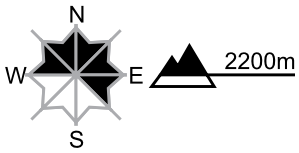
region B — Level 3, considerable

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



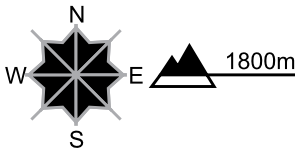
Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack in particular on west, north and east facing slopes. Here avalanches can be released in deep layers of the snowpack. They can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but barely recognisable. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C — Level 2, moderate

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist deep in the snowpack. Especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack avalanches can be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack and reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

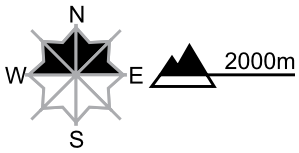
Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2200 m small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. They can be released at any time of day or night.

region D — Level 2, moderate

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack on west, north and east facing slopes. Here the avalanches can be released in deep layers of the snowpack. The avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable. 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.

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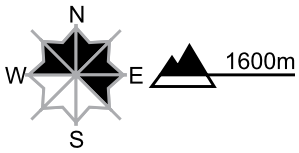
region E — Level 2, moderate

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in some places be released in near-surface layers. Mostly they are only small. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2200 m small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. They can be released at any time of day or night.

region F — Level 1, low

Favourable situation

Only a little 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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.1.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

Avalanches can trigger in the uppermost layers of the snow cover only in isolated cases. Such avalanche prone locations are to be found more than anywhere else in gullies and bowls, as well as behind terrain protruberances.
Inside the snowpack, deeply embedded layers near the ground are faceted and weak, particularly above 2200m on western-facing, northern-facing and eastern-facing slopes; even more threatening are the inneralpine regions, where these layers are extremely weak. In those regions, avalanches can trigger from these weakened layers even through the weight of one single skier. In the western and northern regions where snowfall has been heaviest, the weakened ground-level layers of the snowpack are in many places so deeply blanketed with subsequent snowfall that there is little probability of their releasing; if at all possible, then only with large additional loading or in transition zones from shallow to deep snow. These avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognize.

Observed weather on Thursday, 21.1.2016

In northeastern regions there was high altitude fog up as far as approximately 1500 m to start with. Above that altitude and in the other regions, it was sunny.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

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

Wind

Winds were northwesterly, blowing intermittently at moderate velocity, otherwise at light strength.

Weather forecast through Friday, 22.1.2016

In the mountains it will be sunny. As evening approaches, clouds will move in from the west.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

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

Wind

Winds will be westerly, blowing at light to moderate velocity. During the course of the day, winds will strengthen somewhat.

Outlook through Sunday, 24.1.2016

On Saturday in northern regions, skies will be heavily overcast for the most part and by midday above approximately 1200 m, a small amount of fresh fallen snow is anticipated. In the inneralpine regions, bright intervals are expected during the course of the day. On Sunday, it will be partially sunny. The temperatures in western regions are expected to increase towards +3 °C at 2000 m. In southern regions it will remain sunny on both days.
The danger of dry avalanches is expected to diminish. However, in the inneralpine regions where the old-snow problem is prevalent and keen, only gradually. As a result of rising temperatures on Sunday, increasingly frequent moist sluffs and small-sized avalanches can be expected on steep, south-facing slopes in the western regions more than anywhere else.