Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 8 February 2016

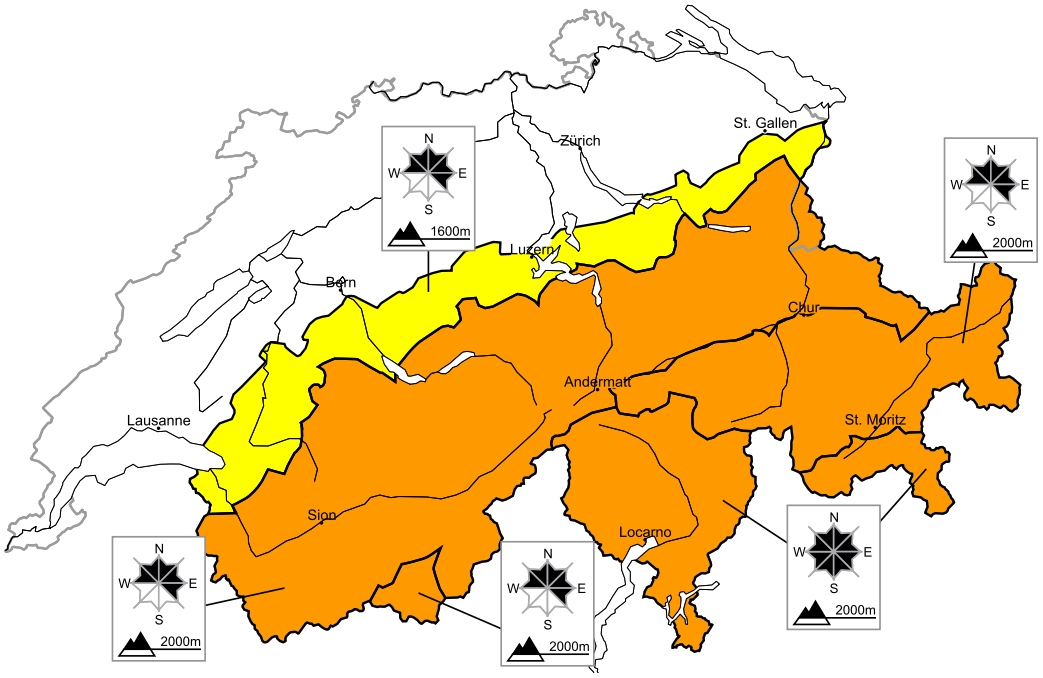
8.2.2016, 07:27

As a consequence of wind a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 8.2.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 8.2.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

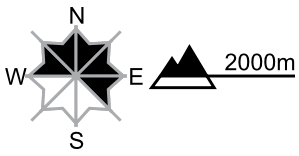
updated on 8.2.2016, 08:00



region A | **Level 3, considerable**

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Additionally avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in little used backcountry terrain and at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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

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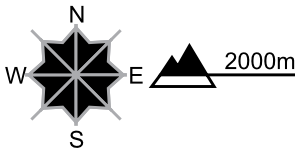
region B — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

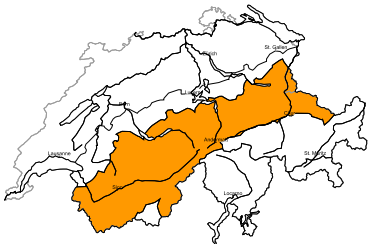
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

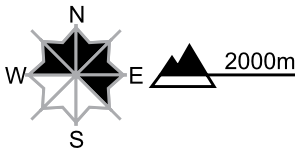
As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Natural avalanches are possible. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C — Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

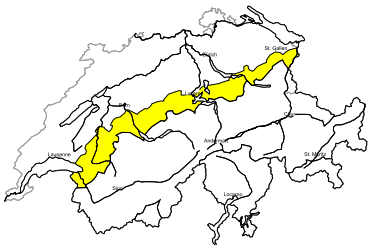
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

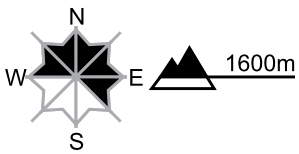
Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. The older snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. As a consequence of the westerly wind further snow drift accumulations will form. These are easy for the trained eye to recognise but can be released easily. Avalanches can in isolated cases reach medium size. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind mostly small snow drift accumulations will form. These represent the main danger. They are easy for the trained eye to recognise but can be released easily. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided in steep terrain.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 7.2.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

On Sunday, as a result of strong velocity southwesterly winds, snowdrift accumulations formed in the northern regions, on north-facing slopes more than anywhere else. These drifted masses were also deposited far distant from ridgeline terrain, but are stabilising increasingly due to the mild temperatures. In southern regions, the snowdrift accumulations are deeper as a result of the greater amount of fresh fallen snow, and have been deposited in all aspects.
On Monday, as a result of strong velocity westerly winds, fresh, prone-to-triggering but relatively easy-to-recognize snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.
Deeply embedded and ground-level layers inside the snowpack are riddled with loosely-packed and faceted snow crystals which weaken these layers, more than anywhere else on west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. In the eastern and southern regions which have had far less snowfall, avalanches can still fracture down to this weakened snowpack fundament. In those regions of the north and west where snowfall has been heavier, such deep-down fractures are only possible in isolated cases.

Observed weather on Sunday, 7.2.2016

In eastern regions, skies initially enjoyed foehn-induced bright intervals. In other regions of the north, skies were heavily overcast. During the afternoon, precipitation set in from the west. The snowfall level descended from 1400 m down to approximately 1000 m. In southern regions there was snowfall which was intermittently heavy. The snowfall level dropped swiftly down to low lying areas.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday evening and Sunday evening, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:
- central sector of the southern flank of the Alps: 30 to 40 cm
- remaining sectors of the Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon region to the Bernina: 10 to 20 cm
- in other regions, less

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -1 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- in northern regions, strong to storm-strength southwesterly winds, slackening off during the afternoon in western regions more than anywhere else.
- in southern regions winds were blowing at moderate strength, for the most part from the south

Weather forecast through Monday, 8.2.2016

During the night, the snowfall will round to a close, including in eastern regions. During the daytime it will be quite sunny to begin with, excluding high altitude cloudbanks. During the afternoon, dense cloud cover will move in from the west and a few centimeters of snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1400 m.

Fresh snow

Between Sunday evening and Monday evening, the following amounts of new fallen snow are anticipated:
- Grisons, central sector of the southern flank of the Alps: 5 to 15 cm; in the Bernina region, up to 25 cm of fresh fallen snow is possible
- northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais: only a few centimeters

Temperature

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

Wind

In northern regions, winds will be westerly, blowing at strong to storm strength. In southern regions, winds will be blowing at moderate strength, but stronger at high altitudes.

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Outlook through Wednesday, 10.2.2016

On Tuesday, snowfall is anticipated, most of which will fall in the western regions. Along the French border, as much as 50 cm of fresh fallen snow is possible. On Wednesday, the precipitation will come to an end, including in northern regions, and some bright intervals can be expected. In southern regions it will be quite sunny on Wednesday. The snowfall level on Tuesday will be approximately 1400 m, subsequently descend on Tuesday down to low lying areas. Winds will continue to blow at strong velocity, on Tuesday from westerly directions to start with, then shifting on Wednesday to northwesterly. Temperatures are expected to drop markedly. The avalanche danger will increase in northern regions on Tuesday to a striking degree, particularly so in the western regions. In southern regions the avalanche danger will incrementally diminish on both days.