Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 24 February 2016

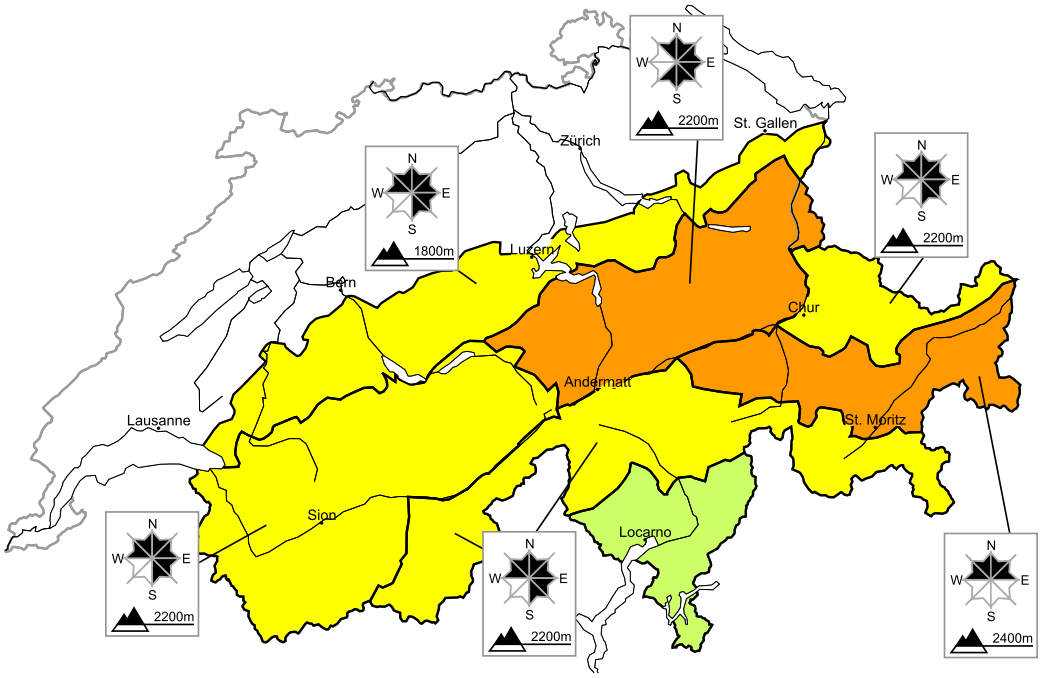
24.2.2016, 07:59

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 24.2.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 24.2.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

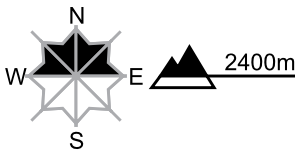
updated on 24.2.2016, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially in places that are protected from the wind and at transitions into gullies and bowls. In little used backcountry terrain avalanche prone locations are more prevalent. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. Remote triggering is possible.
As a consequence of the strong wind snow drift accumulations have formed. These are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanche prone locations are to be found also adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Full-depth avalanches

Mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

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

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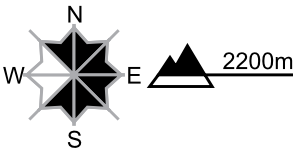
region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



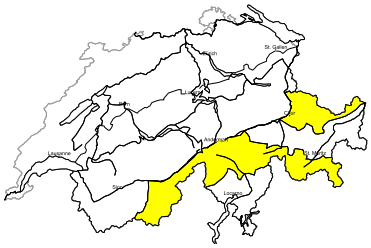
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

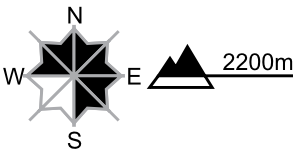
Mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects. They are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering.
Additionally avalanches can also be released in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are rare. They are to be found in particular on wind-protected shady slopes and at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.
Careful route selection and spacing between individuals are recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

Mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

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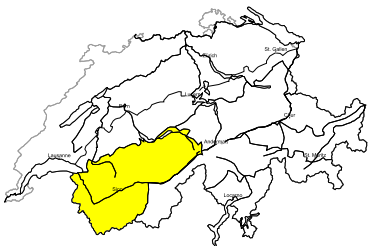
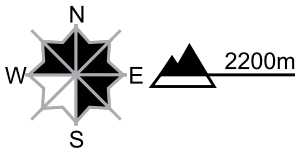
region D — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Snow drift accumulations are in many cases small but prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. In high Alpine regions the snow drift accumulations are larger. Here the danger is higher. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection. Snow drift accumulations are to be avoided.

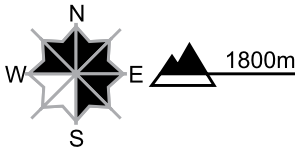
Full-depth avalanches

Full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2500 m. These can reach medium size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region E — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



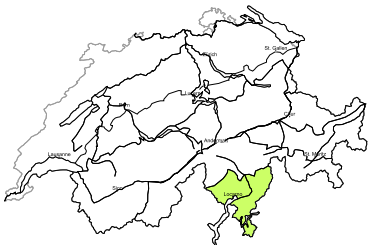
Danger description

As a consequence of the wind snow drift accumulations will form. These are mostly small but prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection. Snow drift accumulations are to be avoided.

Full-depth avalanches

Mostly small full-depth avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region F — Level 1, low



Favourable situation

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on extremely steep slopes. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 23.2.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

The snowpack is moist over a wide area up to altitudes of approximately 2200 m, and even up to around 2500 m on steep south facing slopes. As a consequence of the mild temperatures, the weekend's fresh snow and snow drift accumulations have settled rapidly. The falling temperatures are prompting further stabilisation. The likelihood of wet and full-depth avalanches being released is decreasing. Transportable old snow is still lying in particular on north facing slopes at high altitudes and generally in the high Alpine regions.
The old snowpack problem persists in southern Upper Valais, Ticino, the inneralpine regions of Grisons, and Engadine. Here, avalanches can still be released in near-ground, faceted layers of the snowpack. This applies in particular on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m.
In the other regions the bonding of the snowpack is favourable in many places, and dry avalanches are unlikely to be released in near-ground layers.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 23.2.2016

The north was very cloudy, and the south was partly sunny.

Fresh snow

The following amounts of snow fell in the period from Monday evening until Tuesday afternoon:
· Central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais, Ticino and Grisons: 5 to15 cm
· Western part of the northern flank of the Alps: up to 5 cm
In the morning the snowfall level was between 1500 and 2000 m, before dropping towards 1200 m in the afternoon.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -2 °C in the north and 0 °C in the south

Wind

In particular along the Prealps, moderate to strong from the southwest, in the other regions, light to moderate from the west

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 24.2.2016

On Tuesday night the skies will be clear in the west and south. Snow will fall in the north and east before the weather brightens, but not until towards the morning. The skies will quickly become overcast in the west in the morning and in the south and west later, and will precipitation will commence.

Fresh snow

With the snowfall level at approximately 1000 m, the following amounts of snow will fall in the period from Tuesday afternoon until Wednesday evening:
· Eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm
· Rest of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais and Prättigau: 5 to15 cm
· Other regions: up to 5 cm or none

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -3 °C in the west and -6 °C in the east

Wind

On Tuesday night, moderate to strong northwesterly, even storm force on the southern flank of the Alps; during the day, moderate to strong from the west

Outlook through Friday, 26.2.2016

On Thursday snow will fall frequently in the north, but there will be varying amounts of cloud with some bright spells in the south. On Friday some further snow will fall initially in the north before the weather brightens, in particular in the inneralpine regions. The south will be partly sunny. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.