Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 2 March 2016

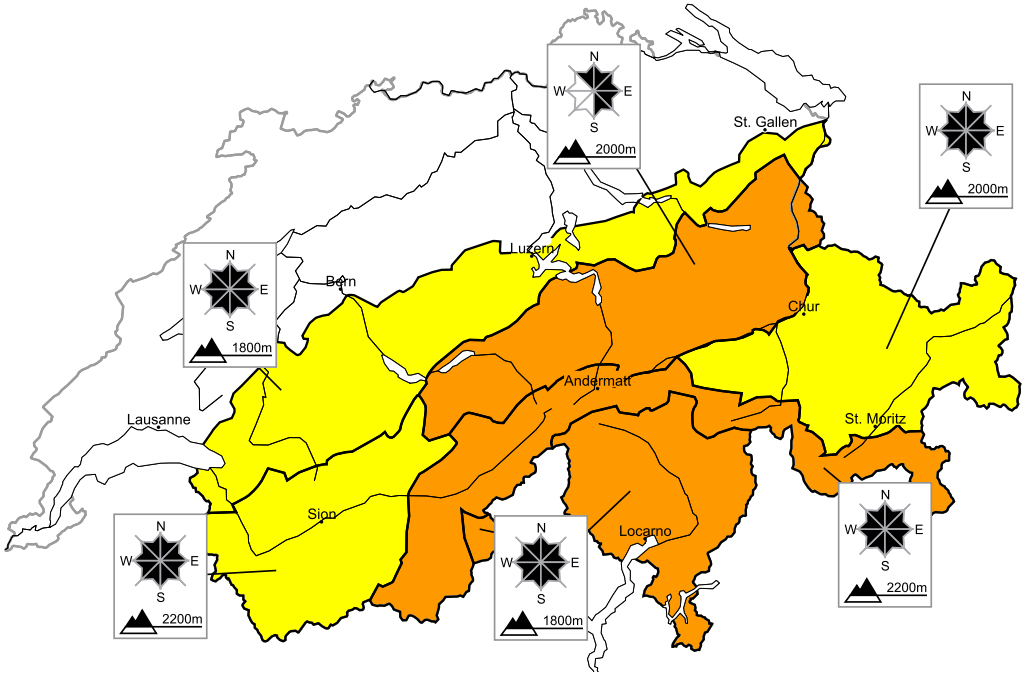
2.3.2016, 07:46

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Fresh snow drifts require caution

Edition: 2.3.2016, 08:00 / Next update: 2.3.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

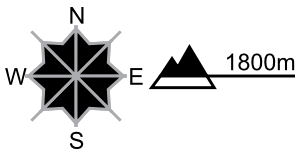
updated on 2.3.2016, 08:00



region A | **Level 3, considerable**

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the northerly wind extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size. This applies especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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

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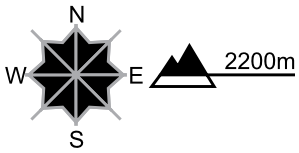
region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



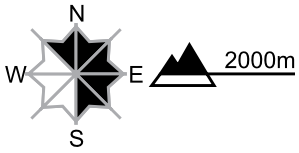
Danger description

As a consequence of the northerly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size. This applies especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



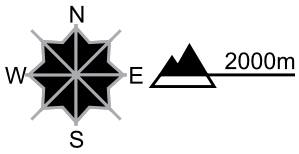
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind mostly small snow drift accumulations have formed. As the day progresses the snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region D — Level 2, moderate

Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size, especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. The avalanche prone locations are to be found especially in places that are protected from the wind and at transitions into gullies and bowls. In central Grisons and in Engadine avalanche prone locations are a little more prevalent.
Fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can be released easily. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

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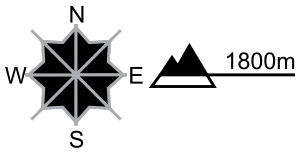
region E — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



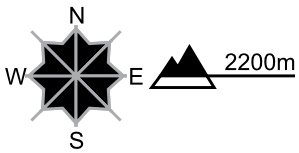
Danger description

As a consequence of the wind small snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released easily. As the day progresses further snow drift accumulations will form. As the day progresses as the snowfall becomes more intense there will be an increase in the avalanche danger to level 3 (considerable). Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region F — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the northerly wind mostly small snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released by a single winter sport participant.
As the day progresses further snow drift accumulations will form. As the day progresses as the snowfall becomes more intense there will be an increase in the avalanche danger to level 3 (considerable).
Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 1.3.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

Today's northerly foehn wind transported large quantities of the loosely bonded snow on the southern flank of the Alps. The conditions gave rise to extensive snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering. Small to medium-sized snow drift accumulations formed in the north as well. These have barely bonded at all thus far with the mostly hard old snowpack and can easily be released.
In view of the faceted layers at its base, the bonding of the snowpack is rather unfavourable in southern Upper Valais, Ticino, the inneralpine regions of Grisons, and Engadine. In some places, avalanches can penetrate these weak layers and reach a dangerously large size, in particular on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Apart from the more recent snow drift accumulations, the bonding of the snowpack in the other regions is favourable in many places, and dry avalanches are unlikely to be released in near-ground layers.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 1.3.2016

It was fairly sunny in Ticino, Valais and the western high Alpine regions. The northeast remained mostly overcast and some further snow fell even at low altitudes.

Fresh snow

The following amounts of snow fell in the period from Monday afternoon until Tuesday afternoon:
- Northern Alpine ridge from the Jungfrau region to Liechtenstein, eastern Prealps, northern Grisons and northern Engadine: 10 to 20 cm
- Other regions: up to 10 cm

Temperature

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

Wind

- Light to moderate, strong at times at elevated altitudes, from the north to northwest
- On the southern flank of the Alps, strong northerly foehn wind

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 2.3.2016

The north will be mostly overcast with light snowfall during the night and heavier snowfall in the afternoon. There will be a break in precipitation during the day. The south will be bright in the morning, but snow will begin to fall in the afternoon. The snowfall level will be approximately 1000 to 1400 m, dropping to low altitudes towards the evening.

Fresh snow

By Wednesday evening the following amounts of snow will fall, with the largest portion falling in the afternoon:
- Extreme west of Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm
- Rest of Valais; Ticino; Grisons: 5 to 15 cm, but only a few centimetres in central Grisons and Engadine

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -2 °C

Wind

Veering from northwesterly to westerly, strong on the northern flank of the Alps, even reaching storm force in the afternoon, mostly moderate in the south. The wind will pick up during the day.

Outlook through Friday, 4.3.2016

In the north the wind will be strong to storm force from the west, and snow will fall frequently. Fairly large quantities of snow are to be expected. The avalanche danger will increase.
In the south only a little snow will fall, and the wind will be mostly moderate from the west. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.