Avalanche bulletin through Saturday, 16 April 2016

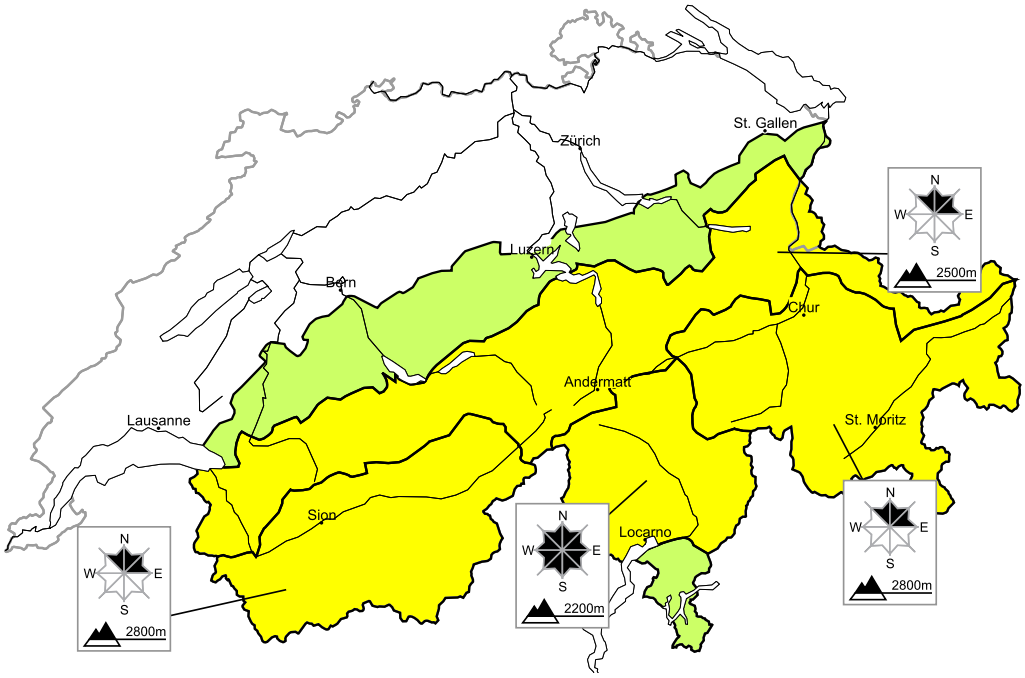
15.4.2016, 16:48

Increase in avalanche danger in the south. Snow drifts require caution

Edition: 15.4.2016, 17:00 / Next update: 16.4.2016, 17:00

Avalanche danger

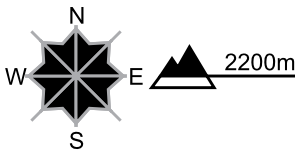
updated on 15.4.2016, 17:00



region A | **Level 2, moderate**

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. As the day progresses as a consequence of fresh snow and wind there will be an increase in the avalanche danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2200 m.

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

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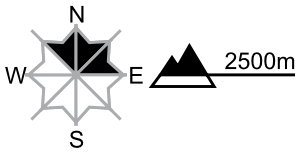
region B — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



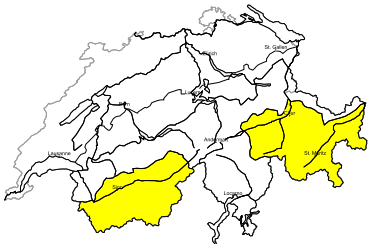
Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind further snow drift accumulations will form. The more recent snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can be released easily. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection. 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.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

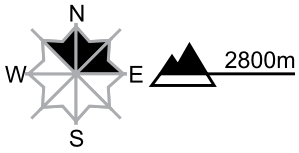
Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized avalanches are possible. This applies in particular below approximately 2500 m.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



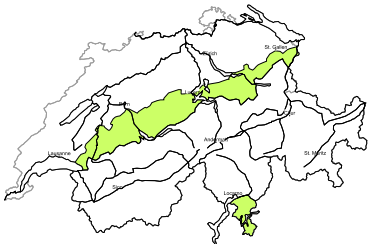
Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind further snow drift accumulations will form. The more recent snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can be released easily. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection. 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.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized avalanches are possible. This applies in particular below approximately 2500 m.

region D — Level 1, low



Snow drifts

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain.

Wet avalanches

In particular on north facing slopes small wet snow slides are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 15.4.2016, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of southerly winds, small-sized snowdrift accumulations which are particularly prone to triggering have formed in high alpine regions more than anywhere else.
The old snow cover is favourably structured for the most part. The snowpack is thoroughly wet below approximately 2500 m on north-facing slopes, below approximately 3000 m on steep, south-facing slopes. In southern Upper Valais, in northern Ticino, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons, the more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack on north-facing slopes are riddled with unbonded, loosely-packed and faceted snow crystals in some places, which weaken the entire snowpack. In those regions more than anywhere else, wet avalanches can fracture down to those ground-level layers, release, and subsequently sweep along the entire snowpack. On north-facing slopes over widespread areas there is still an area-wide snowpack above 1400 to 1800 m, on south-facing slopes approximately 500 m further up, from place to place as much as 1000 m further up.

Observed weather on Friday, 15.4.2016

Skies in western and northern regions were overcast for the most part last night, in southern and eastern regions skies were partly cloudy. Today during the daytime, skies fluctuated between variably cloudy and heavily overcast, accompanied by light showers in western and in northern regions. The snowfall level was at 2000 m. In Sotto Ceneri and in the Lower Engadine, it was partly sunny.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +1 °C.

Wind

Winds were southerly to southwesterly, blowing at light to moderate strength during the night, then blowing at strong velocity at high altitudes during the daytime.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 16.4.2016

During the night in western and southern regions, skies will be heavily overcast, accompanied by light snowfall. In eastern regions skies will be partially clear. During the daytime in northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by showers and bright intervals. In southern regions, skies will be heavily overcast by and large. In northern Ticino and in Val Moesa more than anywhere else, snow showers are anticipated. The snowfall level will be at 2000 m.

Fresh snow

Above approximately 2200 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are expected by Saturday evening:

- northern Ticino, southern Tujetsch, Val Sumvitg, upper Val Calanca and upper Val Moesa: 15 to 30 cm, from place to place as much as 40 cm;
- Valais, northern flank of the Alps, remaining sectors of the southern flank of the Alps: 5 to 10 cm; in other regions of Switzerland, less; or else it is expected to remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +3 °C.

Wind

Winds will be southwesterly, blowing at moderate to strong velocity, in high alpine regions at storm strength.

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Outlook through Monday, 18.4.2016

On Sunday, skies will be heavily overcast for the most part and snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas which will be particularly heavy in southern regions. The snowfall level is expected to descend down to 1600 m in northern regions. In southern regions the snowfall level will be at 2000 to 2200 m. The southwesterly winds will continue to blow at strong velocity. On Sunday night, a small amount of additional snowfall is expected. During the day on Monday, it will be predominantly sunny accompanied by convective cloud build-up and showers in northern regions more than anywhere else.
The avalanche danger is expected to increase over widespread areas on Sunday, significantly so in southern regions. On Monday, avalanche danger levels will decrease somewhat and be subject to a daytime danger cycle.