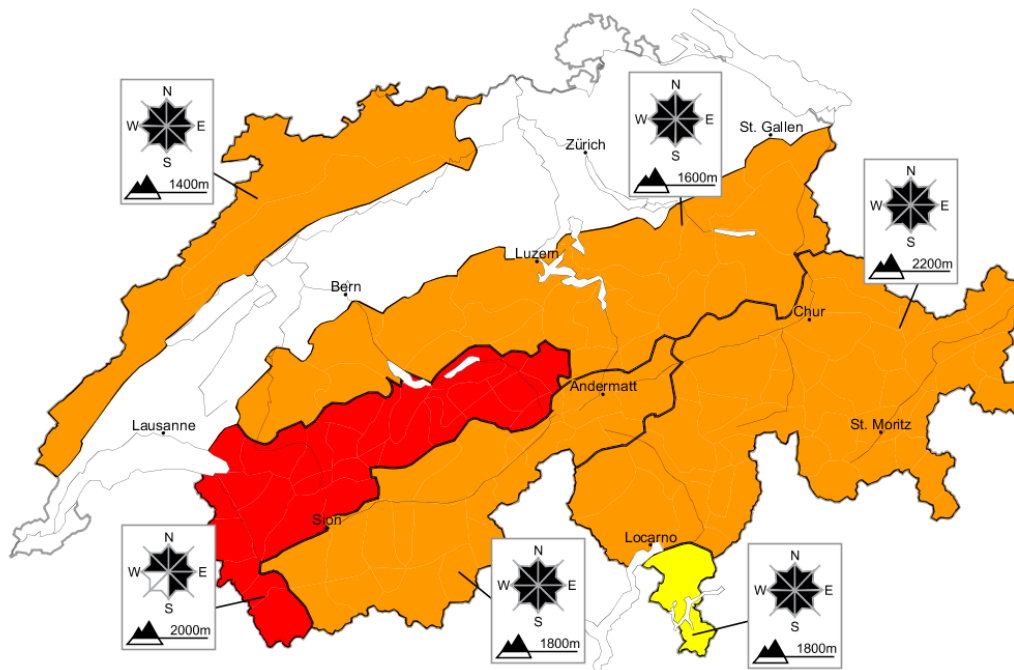


The current avalanche situation calls for caution and restraint.

Edition: 8.12.2012, 08:00 / Next update: 8.12.2012, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 8.12.2012, 08:00



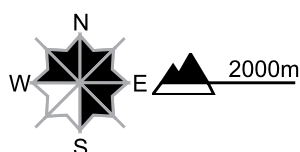
Region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in many places be released by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. They can reach medium size. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered. As a consequence of the ceasing of precipitation there will be a gradual decrease in the avalanche danger as the day progresses. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Full-depth avalanches

In particular on steep south facing slopes more frequent small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

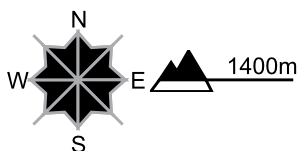
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. These must be evaluated with care and prudence.

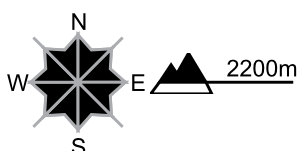
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older snow drift accumulations can be released easily. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can in some cases be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size in isolated cases. This applies especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m, in particular in Grisons. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

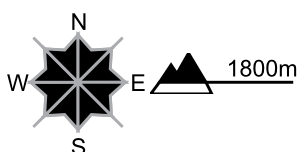
Region D

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. They can reach medium size. Avalanches can in isolated cases be triggered in the old snowpack. This applies especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Full-depth avalanches

On steep south facing slopes small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

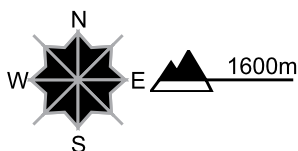
Region E

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. They can reach medium size. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered, especially in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Full-depth avalanches

In particular on steep south facing slopes more frequent small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

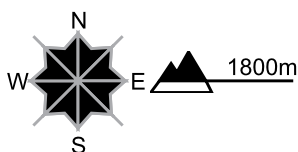
Region F

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. These must be evaluated with care and prudence.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 7.12.2012, 17:00

Snowpack

Wind and from region to region new fallen snow are once again leading to snow drift accumulations forming afresh. The bonding between the new fallen snow and the freshly formed and older layers of snow drift is prone to triggering in many places. On the southern flank of the Alps, the deeper layers inside the snow cover are favourably structured for the most part and fractures are unlikely. In the remaining regions, the base of the snowpack is faceted to some extent, and weak. Up to high altitudes, crusts are frequently embedded inside the snow cover. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanche triggerings from these layers of old snow can be expected.

In the regions on the northern flank of the Alps and the Valais which have had the heaviest snowfall more than anywhere else, the entire snowpack could slide-release over the unfrozen ground, especially below about 2000 m.

Observed weather on Friday, 7.12.2012

During the course of the morning on Friday, renewed precipitation set in from the west.

Fresh snow

By evening, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- in the Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Prättigau, 5 to 10 cm; in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in western Lower Valais, as much as 20 cm
- elsewhere less

Temperature

at midday at 2000 m, minus 11 degrees

Wind

The wind intensified and was blowing at moderate to strong velocity from westerly directions.

Weather forecast until Saturday, 8.12.2012

During the night, widespread snowfall is anticipated, particularly in northern regions. On Saturday, skies will be heavily overcast to start with. Over the course of the afternoon, the precipitation will come to an end in northern regions and first bright intervals will appear. In southern regions, increasingly sunny.

Fresh snow

By Saturday evening, the following amounts of snowfall are expected:

- in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais, 20 to 40 cm, with the greater amounts expected in western Lower Valais and the northern Alpine Ridge of the Valais and Bernese Oberland
- on the remaining northern flank of the Alps and in the Jura, 10 to 30 cm
- in northern and central Grisons, approximately 10 cm
- in Ticino and southern Grisons, just a few centimeters

Temperature

at midday at 2000 m, minus 10 degrees

Wind

Moderate to strong velocity, but in the central sector of the Main Alpine Ridge in particular, storm strength winds from northerly directions. In Ticino, northern foehn wind reaching down into the valleys.

Outlook until Monday, 10.12.2012

On Sunday it will be quite sunny. It will continue to remain very cold, however, accompanied from region to region by moderate to strong velocity northerly winds. On Monday, renewed snowfall is anticipated in northern regions, amidst strong to stormy northwesterly winds. In southern regions it will remain predominantly sunny. The avalanche danger will remain treacherous.