Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 9. December 2012

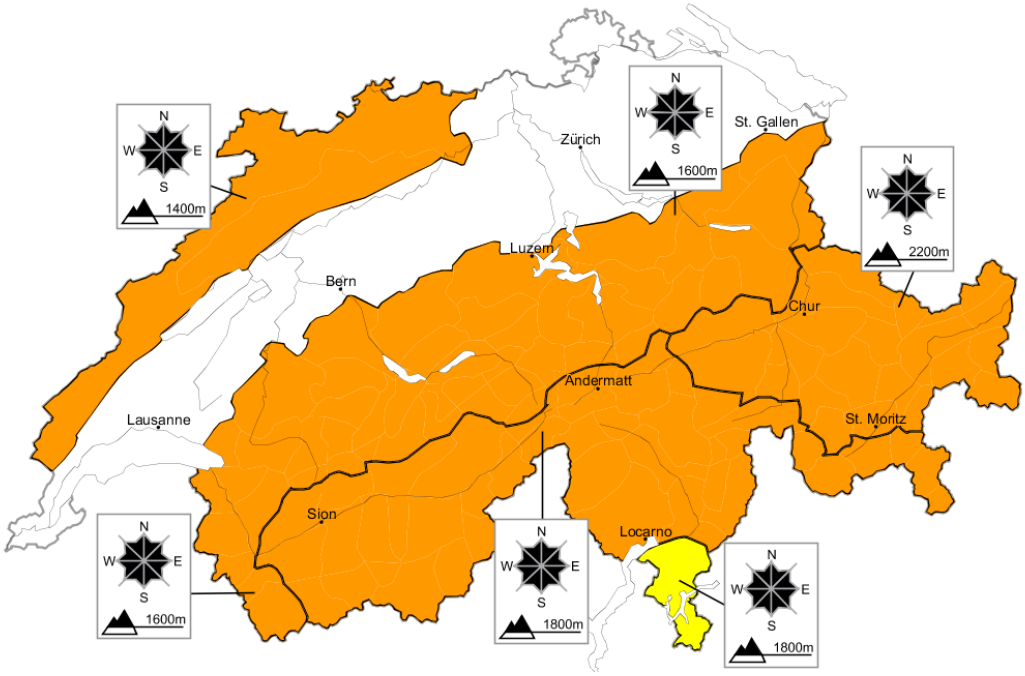
9.12.2012, 08:06

The current avalanche situation calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Edition: 9.12.2012, 08:00 / Next update: 9.12.2012, 17:00

Avalanche danger

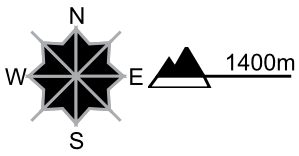
updated on 9.12.2012, 08:00



Region A — 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.

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

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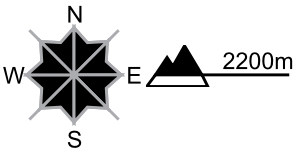
Region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

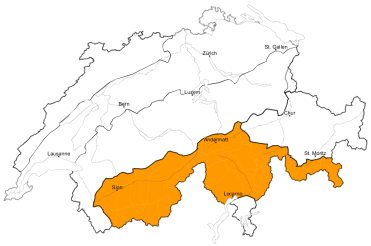
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

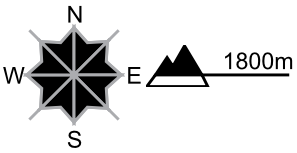
The fresh and older snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. At high altitudes and in high Alpine regions the avalanche prone locations increase. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size in isolated cases. This applies in particular on north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m, especially in the inneralpine regions. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Region C — Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can in isolated cases be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size. This applies in particular in Valais, especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Full-depth avalanches

Especially on steep grassy slopes small full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

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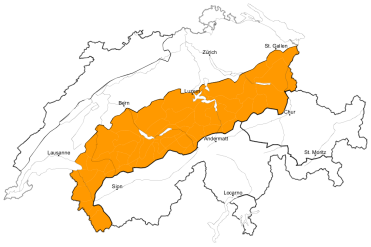
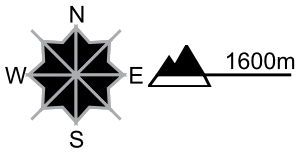
Region D — Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



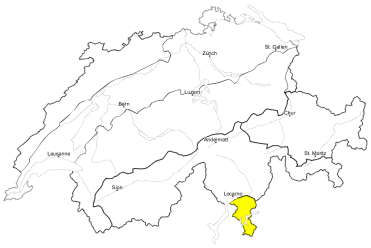
Danger description

The snow drift accumulations are in some cases 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. Individual natural avalanches are possible. They can in isolated cases reach medium size. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in very few cases now. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Full-depth avalanches

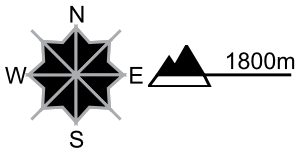
Especially on steep grassy slopes and on road cut slopes more small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

Region E — 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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 8.12.2012, 17:00

Snowpack

In most regions the distribution of snow is heavily contingent upon wind influence. Ridges and crests are often free of snow, whereas wind protected places are filled with masses of snow drift. The borderline bond between the more recently deposited layers of freshly fallen and drifted snow is in many cases prone to triggering. 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. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, it is possible for avalanches to trigger from these old layers of the snowpack.
In the regions on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais which have had the heaviest snowfall more than anywhere else, the entire snow cover could slide-release across the unfrozen ground, particularly on smooth surfaced terrain below about 1800 m.

Observed weather on Saturday, 8.12.2012

On Saturday morning, the snowfall came to an end on the northern flank of the Alps as well. In the afternoon, bright intervals appeared. In far southern regions, it was predominantly sunny, amidst northern foehn winds.

Fresh snow
Since Friday evening there have been the following amounts of snowfall:
· in the Jura, in northern Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, widespread 10 to 20 cm; in the Bernese Oberland, as much as 40 cm
· further to the south, only a few centimeters or it remained dry

Temperature
at midday at 2000 m
· in northern regions, minus 12 degrees
· in western and southern regions, minus 8 degrees

Wind
predominantly light to moderate velocity, in the central sector of the Main Alpine Ridge and in eastern regions intermittently strong, from northerly directions

Weather forecast until Sunday, 9.12.2012

In the morning generally sunny skies are anticipated. During the day it will turn increasingly overcast from the north. In the evening, snowfall is possible in northern regions.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
temporarily somewhat warmer: minus 6 degrees at 2000 m

Wind
moderate, in some high alpine regions, strong winds from northerly directions

Outlook until Tuesday, 11.12.2012

In northern regions on Monday and Tuesday, snowfall is anticipated, particularly in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps. In southern regions, it will be quite sunny. Moderate to strong velocity winds from northwesterly directions. Cold. The avalanche danger is expected to increase in northern regions in particular.