Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 10. December 2012

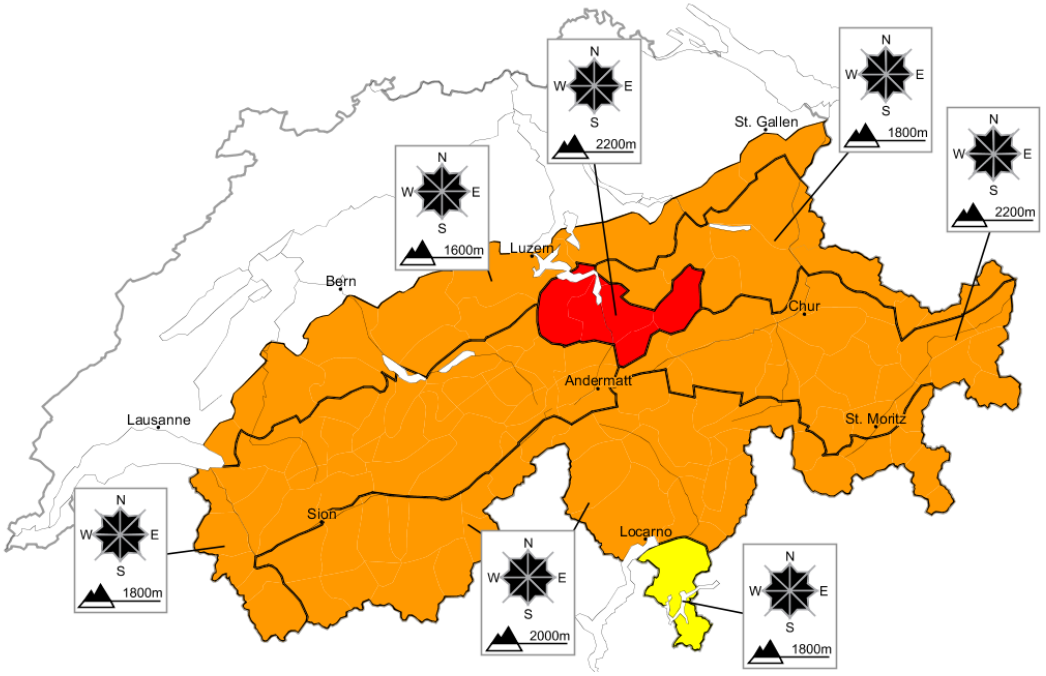
10.12.2012, 07:59

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind a precarious will be encountered over a wide area avalanche situation.

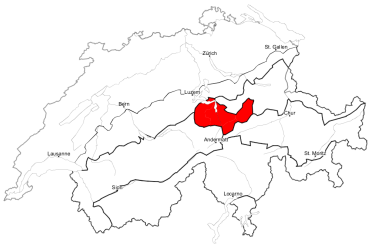
Edition: 10.12.2012, 08:00 / Next update: 10.12.2012, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 10.12.2012, 08:00

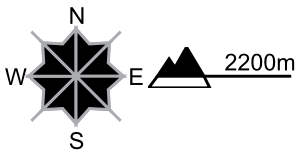


Region A — Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. They can reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for great caution and restraint.

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

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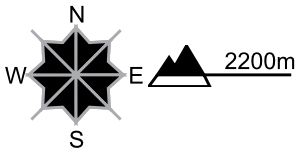
Region B — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



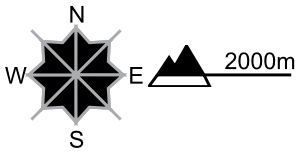
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. In addition 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. 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



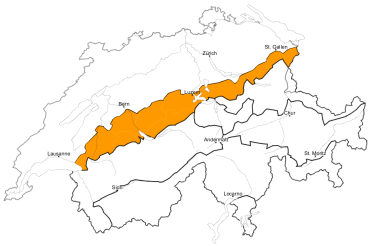
Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. In Valais avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size in isolated cases. This applies in particular 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

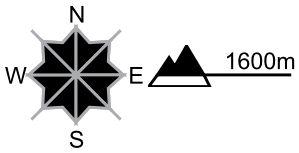
Especially on steep grassy slopes small full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

Region D — Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



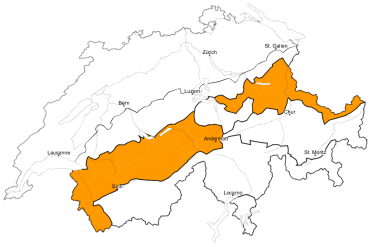
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. They can in isolated cases reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for caution and restraint.

Full-depth avalanches

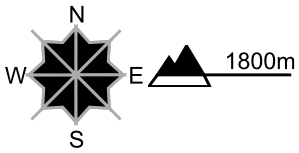
Especially on steep grassy slopes and on road cut slopes more small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

Region E — Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



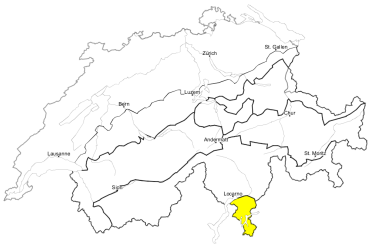
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. They can reach medium size. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases, in particular on the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein. In particular in Grisons avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for great caution and restraint.

Full-depth avalanches

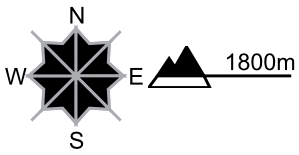
Especially on steep grassy slopes and on road cut slopes more small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

Region 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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 9.12.2012, 17:00

Snowpack

In most regions the snow distribution is heavily contingent on wind influence. Ridges and crests are frequently free of snow, whereas on wind protected slopes there are often great snow masses.
The wind has transported both new fallen and old snow. Trigger-sensitive snow drift accumulations, which in some parts of the northern flank of the Alps are large sized, have formed.
On the southern flank of the Alps, the deeper layers inside the snow cover are favourably structured from 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 there are often crusts embedded inside it. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can trigger from these layers of the old snowpack.
Particularly in the regions of the northern flank of the Alps and the Valais where snowfall has been heaviest, the entire snow cover could slide-release across the unfrozen ground, particularly on smooth surfaced terrain below approximately 2000 m.

Observed weather on Sunday, 9.12.2012

The night was clear. During the day, skies were by and large heavily overcast in northern regions, in far southern regions it remained quite sunny. In the afternoon in northern regions, light snowfall set in.

Fresh snow
maximum 5 cm

Temperature
at midday at 2000 m
· in eastern regions, minus 8 degrees
· in western and southern regions, minus 6 degrees

Wind
moderate, intermittently strong winds from northerly directions

Weather forecast until Monday, 10.12.2012

Skies will be heavily overcast and snowfall is anticipated down to low altitudes. The snowfall will be heaviest during the latter part of the night on the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein.

Fresh snow
By Monday evening, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow are expected:
· northern flank of the Alps from eastern part of Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein, 20 to 40 cm, from place to place as much as 50 cm
· Vaud and Fribourg Alps, western part of Bernese Oberland, Lower Valais, northern Valais, northern Grisons and northern Lower Engadine, 15 to 30 cm
· southern Upper Valais, central Grisons, Engadine, 5 to 15 cm
· further to the south, less

Temperature
-10 degrees at 2000 m

Wind
moderate to strong velocity, shifting from westerly to northwesterly

Outlook until Wednesday, 12.12.2012

On Tuesday, snowfall is anticipated on the northern flank of the Alps in particular. Elsewhere it will be heavily overcast far and wide. Only in southern regions will it be quite sunny. After the precipitation comes to an end on Wednesday, there will be a transition to sunnier weather conditions. Very cold. The avalanche danger will remain treacherous especially in northern regions.