Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 12 December 2012

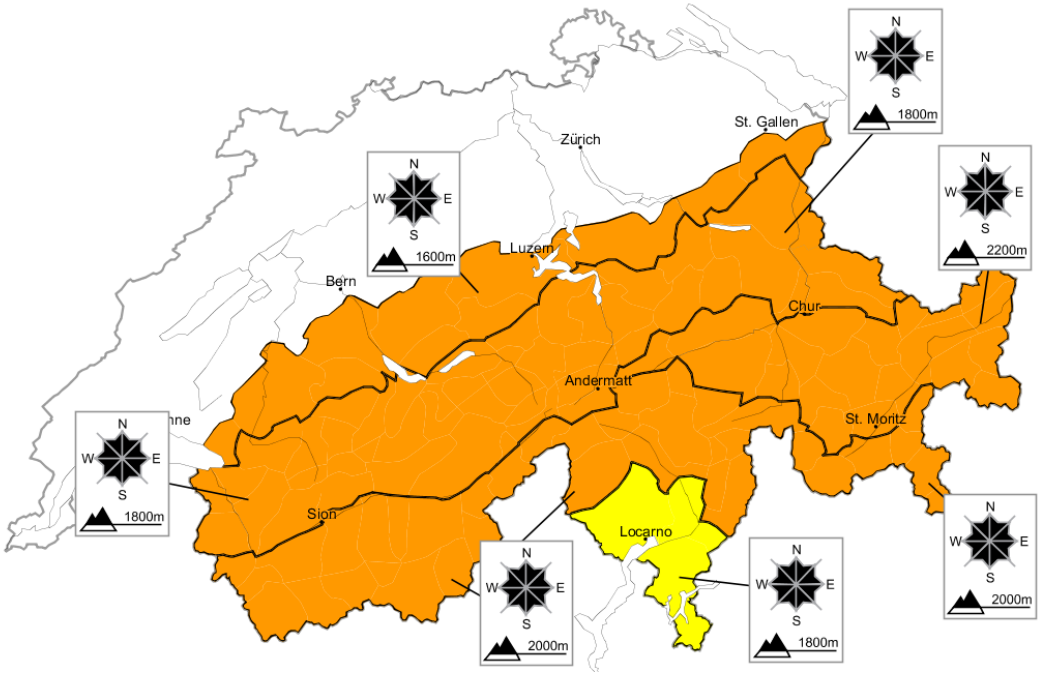
12.12.2012, 07:19

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Snow drifts require caution

Edition: 12.12.2012, 08:00 / Next update: 12.12.2012, 17:00

Avalanche danger

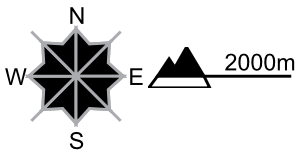
updated on 12.12.2012, 08:00



Region A — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind sometimes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. In Valais avalanches can be released 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. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Full-depth avalanches

In Valais small full-depth avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised on steep grassy slopes below approximately 2000 m.

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

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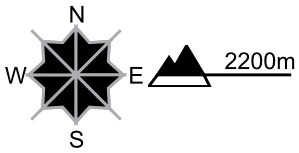
Region B — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



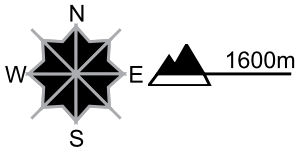
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. In addition avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size. 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 great caution and restraint.

Region C — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



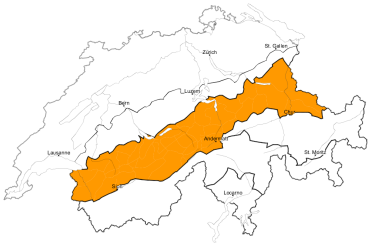
Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for caution and restraint.

Full-depth avalanches

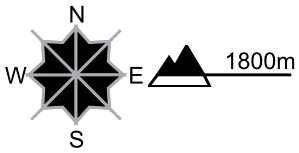
On steep grassy slopes and on road cut slopes more small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

Region D — Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations have formed. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Natural avalanches are possible. 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 the Glarus Alps. Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow, especially in Valais and in Grisons. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for great caution and restraint.

Full-depth avalanches

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.

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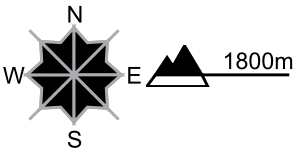
Region E

Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and older snow drift accumulations are in some cases still prone to triggering. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 11.12.2012, 17:00

Snowpack

The layers of fresh fallen and drifted snow from the last two days are to some extent still prone to triggering in all aspects. In the major areas of precipitation extending from the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland into the Glarus region, these layers are deep.
Except on the southern flank of the Alps, the snow above approximately 2200 m which has fallen in recent weeks, has been deposited on top of a faceted old layer of snow from October, particularly on north facing slopes. In this old, thin layer, extensive and in isolated cases large sized avalanches have been triggered over the last few days, particularly on north facing slopes. This unfavourable snow layering persists unchanged, especially in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons.
In those regions of the northern flank of the Alps and the Valais which have the greatest snow depth more than anywhere else, the entire snow cover could release across the unfrozen ground as a full depth snowslide. This is especially the case on steep, grass covered slopes below about 2000 m.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 11.12.2012

There has been widespread snowfall down to low altitudes. During the day it turned sunny in the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps in particular. In northern and eastern regions, the snowfall slackened off.

Fresh snow
From Sunday afternoon to Tuesday afternoon the following amounts of snowfall were registered:
· northern flank of the Alps from eastern part of the Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein, as well as the Prättigau, 50 to 80 cm; from Muotatal into the Glarner Alps, about 100 cm
· remaining northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, Goms, remaining regions of northern Grisons, as well as central Grisons, 30 to 50 cm
· further to the south, significantly less

Temperature
at midday at 2000 m:
· in northern regions, minus 13 degrees
· in southern regions, minus 10 degrees

Wind
moderate to strong velocity northwesterly winds, slackening off over the course of the day

Weather forecast until Wednesday, 12.12.2012

Residual cloud in northeastern regions in the morning hours, elsewhere sunny throughout Switzerland

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
an midday at 2000 m:
· in western regions, minus 8 degrees
· in eastern regions, minus 12 degrees

Wind
light to moderate velocity, over the course of the day shifting from northerly to westerly

Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 12 December 2012

Outlook until Friday, 14.12.2012

Thursday

Clouds are expected to move in from the west. In eastern regions foehn-induced bright intervals are anticipated. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to subside. Particularly on the northern flank of the Alps full depth snowslides are possible at any and all times.

Friday

In western regions in particular, snowfall is expected. Amidst strong velocity westerly winds and ascending snowfall levels, the danger of dry and wet avalanches will increase.