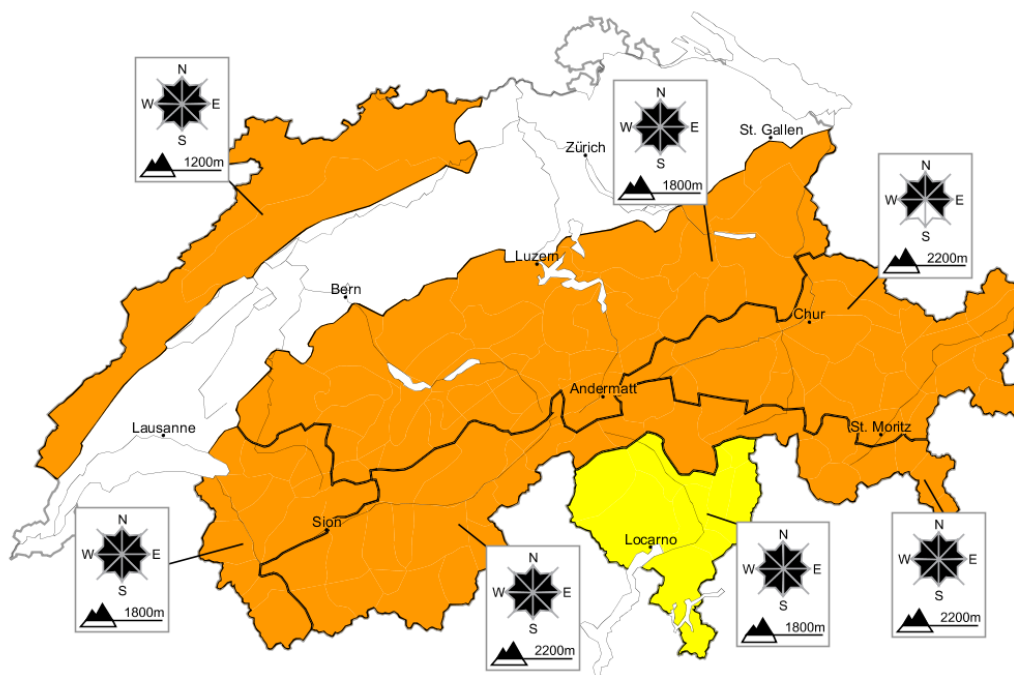


Considerable avalanche danger will prevail. Dry and wet avalanches to be expected

Edition: 16.12.2012, 08:00 / Next update: 16.12.2012, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 16.12.2012, 08:00



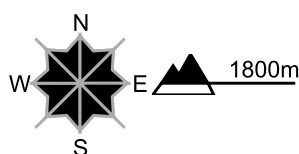
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind further snow drift accumulations will form. They can be released easily, even by a single winter sport participant. Natural avalanches are to be expected. In particular in the extreme west of Lower Valais these can reach medium size. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases here. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

In all aspects more small and medium-sized full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. This applies in particular below approximately 2000 m. Exposed transportation routes are endangered in some cases.

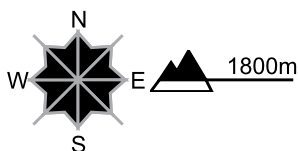
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and older snow drift accumulations can be released easily. They are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. In addition avalanches can in isolated cases be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size. This applies in particular on north and east 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

Below approximately 2000 m small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected. Exposed transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases.

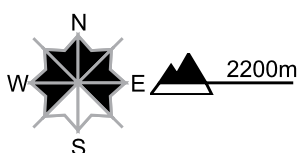
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in the old snowpack. This applies in particular on west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. The fresh snow drift accumulations are rather small but can be released easily. They are to be bypassed as far as possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

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



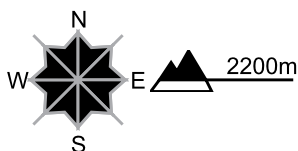
Region D

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and older snow drift accumulations can be released easily. They are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. In Valais avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size. This applies in particular on north and east 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 and in Ticino small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised on steep grassy slopes below approximately 2000 m.

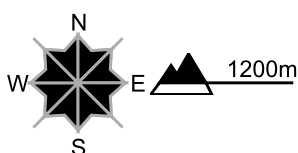
Region E

Level 3, considerable



Wet and full-depth avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In all aspects full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised on steep grassy slopes.

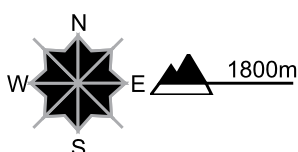
Region F

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 15.12.2012, 17:00

Snowpack

The layers of new fallen and drifted snow are prone to triggering. Particularly in the major areas of precipitation in western regions, these layers are deep. Apart from the southern flank of the Alps, the snow cover above approximately 2200 m has weak layers composed of faceted snow crystals at its base, especially in western to northern to eastern aspects. In isolated cases, avalanches can be triggered in the weak layers of the old snowpack.

Observed weather on Saturday, 15.12.2012

During the night there was precipitation widespread. In northern regions the snowfall level temporarily ascended to 1800 m. During the day skies were overcast accompanied by intermittent snowfall. The snowfall level was at approximately 1200 m. Bright spells appeared during the afternoon.

Fresh snow

From Friday morning to Saturday evening there were the following amounts of fresh fallen snow:

- Chablais, Trient, Great St. Bernard, Avers, Bergell, Bernina region and Val Poschiavo, 20 to 40 cm
- remaining western part of northern flank of the Alps, remaining Lower Valais, Ticino, 10 to 20 cm
- elsewhere 5 to 10 cm widespread, in northeastern regions less

Temperature

at midday at 2000 m, minus 2 degrees

Wind

During the night strong to storm strength southerly winds were blowing, during the day in western and northern regions moderate to strong velocity, elsewhere light to moderate velocity southwesterly winds

Weather forecast until Sunday, 16.12.2012

In northern and western regions skies will frequently be heavily overcast, accompanied by intermittent snowfall. Snowfall level at 1000 m. In Grisons, just a small amount of snowfall amidst bright intervals. In southern regions, intermittently sunny.

Fresh snow

By Sunday evening the following amounts of new fallen snow are expected:

- western part of northern flank of the Alps and Valais, 15 to 30 cm
- remaining northern flank of the Alps, Gotthard region and Grisons, 5 to 15 cm
- remaining Ticino, less

Temperature

at midday at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees

Wind

In northern regions strong, in southern regions light to moderate westerly winds.

Outlook until Tuesday, 18.12.2012

On Monday and Tuesday in northern and western regions, repeated snowfall is anticipated. The snowfall level will drop to below 1000 m. In southern regions it is expected to be quite sunny on both days. The avalanche situation in northern and western regions will remain tense and the danger level could increase further from region to region on Monday. In southern regions the avalanche hazards are not expected to change significantly.