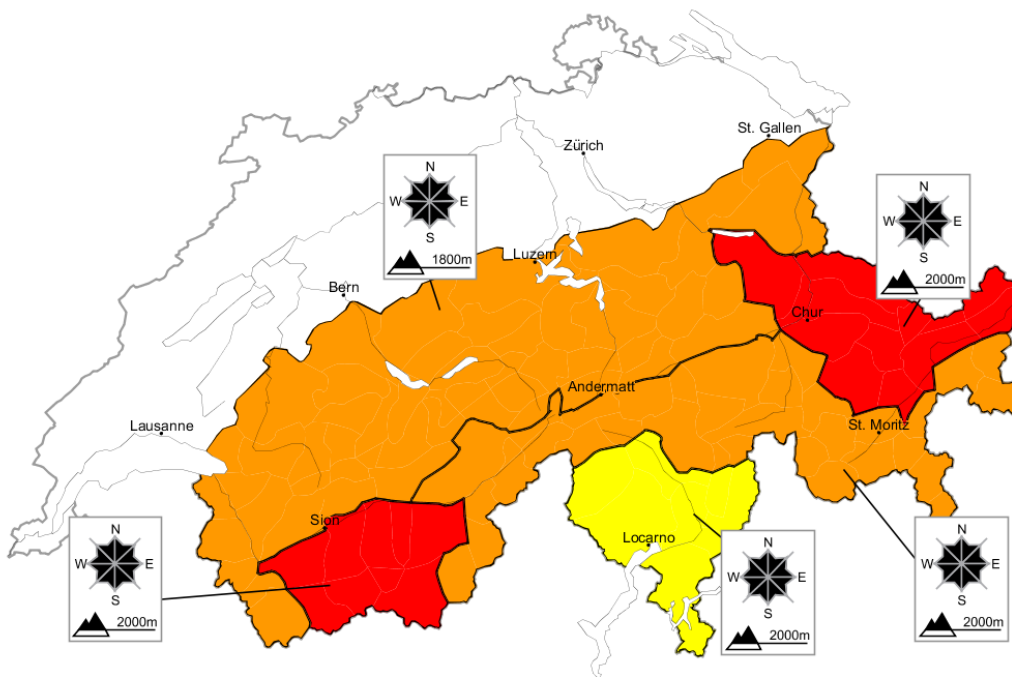


# High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Dry and wet avalanches are to be expected

Edition: 23.12.2012, 08:00 / Next update: 23.12.2012, 17:00

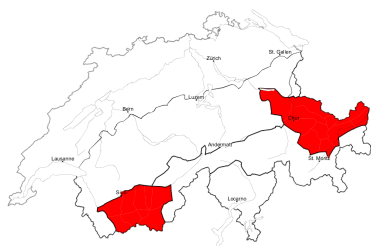
## Avalanche danger

updated on 23.12.2012, 08:00



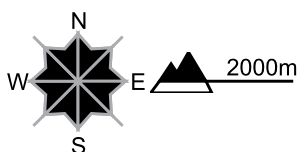
### Region A

### Level 4, high



#### Snow drifts, old snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes storm force wind extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released easily or naturally. Avalanches can be triggered in the faceted old snow and reach medium size. This applies on west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. Individual avalanches capable of reaching the valley bottom are possible. The conditions are unfavourable for winter sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

#### Wet avalanches

Numerous full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, including medium-sized ones. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2200 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered.

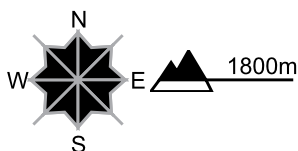
**Region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of the sometimes storm force wind extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. These can be released easily or naturally. In particular on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons avalanches can be triggered in the faceted old snow and reach medium size. This applies on west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. The conditions are critical for winter sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

Numerous full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, including medium-sized ones. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2200 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered.

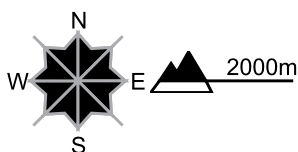
**Region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of the sometimes storm force wind extensive snow drift accumulations have formed. Avalanches can in many places be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. In particular on west, north and east facing slopes they can be triggered in the faceted old snow and reach medium size. Off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

Numerous full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected, including medium-sized ones. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2200 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

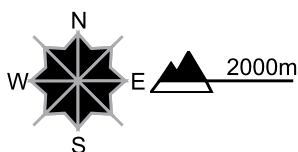
**Region D**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The fresh and older snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. They are to be avoided.

**Wet avalanches**

Below approximately 2200 m mostly small wet avalanches are to be expected.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 22.12.2012, 17:00

### Snowpack

The snow depths on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Gotthard region, as well as from place to place in the Valais, amount to 120 to 200 cm. In central Valais and in northern Ticino, the snow is 80 to 120 cm deep; in Grisons, in central and southern Ticino, 50 to 80 cm.

Excluding on the southern flank of the Alps, the base of the snow cover above approximately 2200 m on west to north to east facing slope displays faceted, weak layers. Particularly in those regions where the snow is shallower, avalanches can be triggered from this weak old snowpack. In those regions where the snow is deeper, avalanches can be triggered in pass areas from shallow to deep snow in isolated cases. Yesterday the surface hoar was blanketed over by new fallen snow from place to place.

On Saturday night in western regions below approximately 2000 m and in eastern regions below approximately 1600 m, rainfall will cause the snow cover to become thoroughly wet, thereby weakening it. In the major regions of precipitation, more frequent occurrences of wet avalanches and full depth snowslides can be expected.

### Observed weather on Saturday, 22.12.2012

Skies were predominantly clear during the night, during the day high altitude cloud cover rapidly moved in from the west.

#### Fresh snow

Western sector of northern flank of the Alps and Upper Engadine, a few centimeters

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between minus 3 degrees in northern regions and zero degrees in southern regions

#### Wind

To begin with light northwesterly winds were blowing, at moderate velocity on the Main Alpine Ridge. Towards afternoon, stronger westerly to southwesterly winds came up in northern regions in particular.

### Weather forecast until Sunday, 23.12.2012

During the night, precipitation. Snowfall level in western and northern regions at 1800 to 2200 m, in southern and eastern regions at 1500 to 1800 m. During the day it will turn sunny.

#### Fresh snow

During the night above approximately 2200 m, the following amounts of snowfall are anticipated:

- Bernese Oberland, central and eastern sectors of northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, Gotthard region, northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine, 20 to 40 cm
- Remaining regions, 10 to 20 cm; towards the west and south, snowfall amounts will be less

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between plus 4 degrees in northern regions and plus 7 degrees in southern regions

#### Wind

In northern regions, strong to storm strength, in southern regions moderate to strong velocity westerly to northwesterly winds. At intermediate altitudes the winds will slacken off as evening approaches. Fresh fallen and old snow will be transported.

**Outlook** until Tuesday, 25.12.2012

**Monday**

Quite sunny, increasingly overcast towards evening in southern regions in particular. Very mild, accompanied by moderate to strong velocity foehn winds. The danger of dry avalanches will slowly subside. The danger of wet avalanches remains heightened.

**Tuesday**

In western and northern regions, it will still be sunny to begin with, then cloud will move in from the west and precipitation will set in. In southern regions, already during the day heavily overcast. The snowfall level will be at about 1500 m. It will again turn colder. The avalanche danger (dry and wet) will gradually recede.