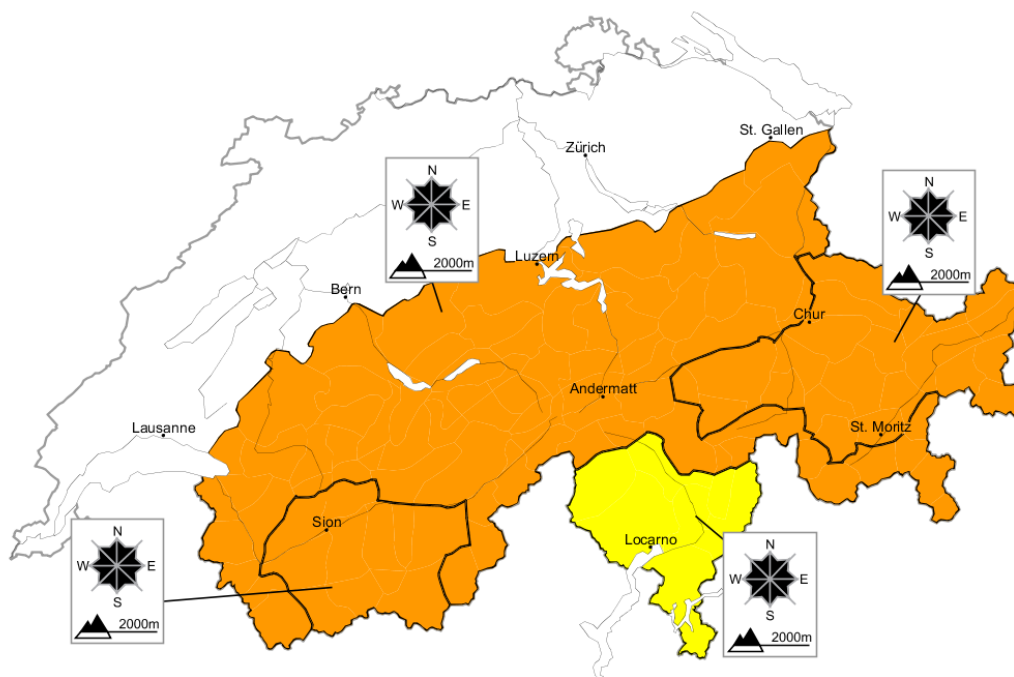


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 24.12.2012, 08:00 / Next update: 24.12.2012, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 24.12.2012, 08:00



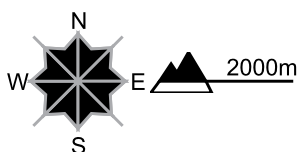
Region A

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. 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 precarious 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 2400 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

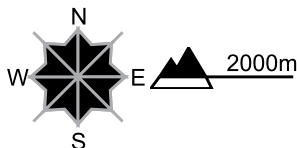
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

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. Also at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example avalanches can be triggered in the faceted old snow and reach medium size. This applies in particular on west, north and east facing slopes on the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons. The conditions are precarious 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 2400 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

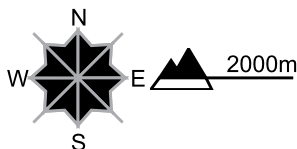
Region C

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 23.12.2012, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of the rain and markedly higher temperatures, the snow cover was made thoroughly wet, and thereby weakened. Numerous medium sized and some large sized naturally triggered wet avalanches and full depth snowslides released in all aspects below about 2400 m.

In addition, the strong to storm strength winds brought about wide ranging snow drift accumulations. They can be easily triggered or even trigger naturally.

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 slopes displays faceted, weak layers. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons avalanches can be triggered in these weak layers of the old snowpack.

Observed weather on Sunday, 23.12.2012

During the night there was rainfall up to intermediate altitudes. During the day it was variably cloudy but dry.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level in western regions was between 1900 and 2200 m. In southern and eastern regions it was at 1400 to 1600 m to begin with, then just before the precipitation came to an end ascended towards 2000 m.

Above approximately 2200 m, the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:

- widespread 20 to 40 cm
- western Prealps, southwestern part of central Grisons, 10 to 20 cm
- Sotto Ceneri, just a few centimeters

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between plus 5 degrees in northern and plus 8 degrees in southern regions

Wind

Generally strong to storm strength, in inneralpine regions and in Ticino moderate strength westerly to northwesterly winds. New fallen and old snow were intensively transported.

Weather forecast until Monday, 24.12.2012

In northern regions, rather sunny. In southern regions, increasingly overcast.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between plus 8 degrees in northern and plus 3 degrees in southern regions

Wind

In northern regions, moderate to strong velocity, in southern regions moderate velocity westerly to southwesterly winds. Particularly in northern regions, the snow will be ongoingly transported.

Outlook until Wednesday, 26.12.2012

Tuesday

In northern regions, there will be foehn-induced bright intervals to start with, before cloud moves in from the west during the afternoon and precipitation sets in. In southern regions there will be snowfall down to about 1500 m. Continuing strong winds, but colder. The danger of wet avalanches and full depth snowslides will subside. The danger of dry avalanches will incrementally recede in northern regions and increase somewhat in southern regions.

Wednesday

Variably cloudy and some snowfall. It will remain cold. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.