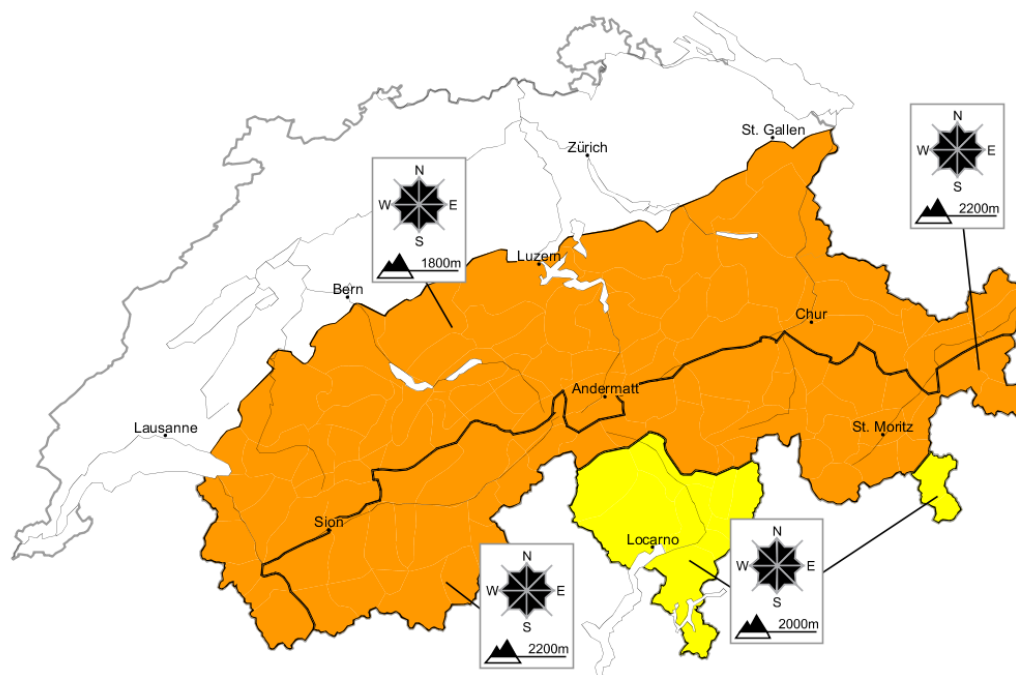


# Outside marked and open pistes a critical avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 28.12.2012, 08:00 / Next update: 28.12.2012, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 28.12.2012, 08:00



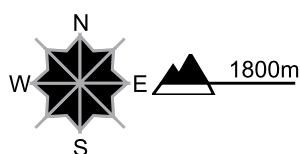
### Region A

### Level 3, considerable



### Fresh snow and snow drifts

#### Avalanche prone locations

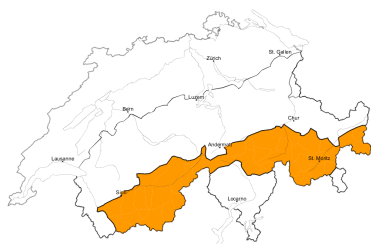


#### Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind extensive snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released easily or naturally. Medium-sized avalanches are to be expected. Individual large avalanches are possible. In particular in northern Grisons and in Lower Engadine avalanches can be released in the faceted old snow. This applies especially on west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

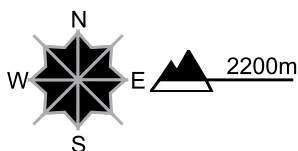
## Region B

## Level 3, considerable



### Fresh snow and snow drifts

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind further snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. Small and medium-sized avalanches are to be expected. In particular in the inneralpine regions avalanches can be released in the faceted old snow. This applies especially on west, 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.

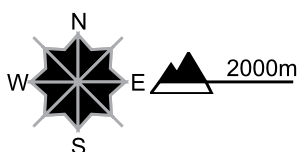
## Region C

## Level 2, moderate



### Snow drifts

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind further snow drift accumulations will form. This applies especially at elevated altitudes. Snow drift accumulations can in some cases be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 27.12.2012, 17:00

### Snowpack

The more recent snow drift is frequently prone to triggering; it is currently the major source of avalanche hazards widespread. Above approximately 2200 m the old snow cover has consolidated well in most regions. Fracturing is possible in transition areas from shallow to deep snow through large additional loading more than anything else. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can fracture in the weak layers embedded inside the old snowpack near the ground and reach medium size, particularly on west to north to east facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. Below 2200 m, the thoroughly wet snowpack is also stabilising increasingly well as a result of the lower temperatures. The activity of wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides has significantly slackened off. Full depth snowslides are still possible in isolated cases, however.

### Observed weather on Thursday, 27.12.2012

In southeastern regions there were bright intervals to begin with. In western and northern regions skies were predominantly overcast and snowfall set in.

#### Fresh snow

- northern Valais, 20 to 30 cm
- remaining Valais, western part of northern flank of the Alps, 5 to 15 cm
- remaining regions, just a few centimeters or it was dry

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, minus 2 degrees

#### Wind

Westerly to southwesterly winds

- Valais and northern flank of the Alps, strong to storm strength winds
- Grisons and Ticino, moderate to strong velocity winds

### Weather forecast until Friday, 28.12.2012

On Thursday night, skies will be overcast and snowfall is anticipated. As of midday on Friday it will be predominantly dry, accompanied by bright spells in western regions, on the southern flank of the Alps and in the inneralpine regions.

#### Fresh snow

- Valais, northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, Lower Engadine, 20 to 40 cm, heaviest snowfall in eastern regions
- northern Ticino, central Grisons, Upper Engadine, 10 to 20 cm
- further to the south, just a few centimeters

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, minus 6 degrees in northeastern regions, minus 3 degrees in western and southern regions

#### Wind

Strong to storm strength northwesterly winds, slackening off during the course of the day

### Outlook until Sunday, 30.12.2012

#### Saturday

It is expected to be sunny in general, accompanied by moderate velocity southwesterly winds and for a brief interim very mild. The avalanche danger will remain treacherous for a time.

#### Sunday

In northern regions it will be partly, in southern regions predominantly sunny. The avalanche danger will subside gradually.