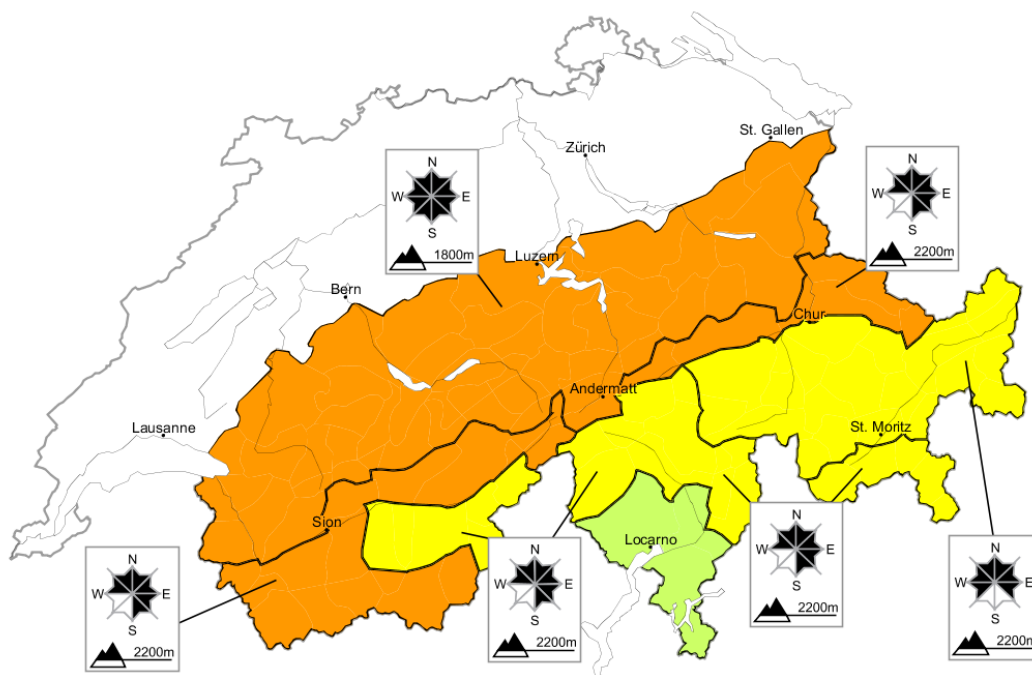


As a consequence of fresh snow and wind a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 11.1.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 11.1.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 11.1.2013, 08:00



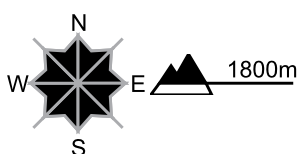
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

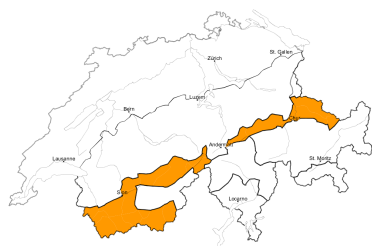


Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are bonding poorly with the old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. In particular in the Vaud Alps and in the eastern Bernese Oberland natural avalanches are possible. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

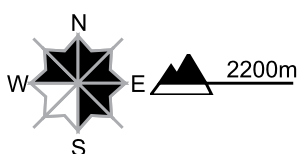
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind sometimes avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. At elevated altitudes avalanche prone locations are more prevalent. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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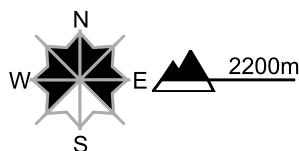
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

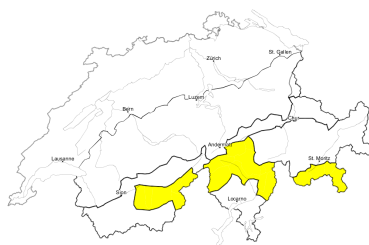


Danger description

The fresh and older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. In addition avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. This applies especially on steep, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes. These avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Defensive route selection is advisable.

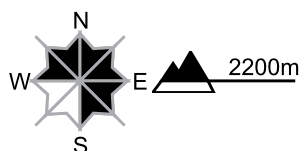
Region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers, mostly by large additional loads in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can be released easily. They are to be bypassed as far as possible. Careful route selection is recommended.

Region E

Level 1, low



Favourable situation

Only a little snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised in view of the danger of being buried, but in particular because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.1.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

Following the period of pleasant weather conditions at the beginning of January the snowpack surface was faceted on shady, wind-protected slopes in particular. It now provides a relatively unfavourable fundament for the new fallen and drifted snow.

Particularly in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, in the Engadine and in the Münstertal, the more deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover are to some extent faceted and weak. In isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in these weak layers and grow to medium size. In the remaining regions the old snowpack is favourably structured by and large.

Observed weather on Thursday, 10.1.2013

Skies were heavily overcast and there was a small amount of snowfall in northern regions.

Fresh snow

On the northern flank of the Alps, a few centimeters of snowfall down to low altitudes

Temperature

By midday the temperatures at 2000 m in northern regions sank to minus 3 degrees, in southern regions to zero degrees

Wind

Moderate from westerly directions

Weather forecast until Friday, 11.1.2013

It will be heavily overcast and cold. Snowfall is anticipated widespread, in some places on the northern flank of the Alps snowfall will be intense. In the furthestmost southern regions it will be quite sunny and dry.

Fresh snow

- regions north of a line drawn from Rhone to Rhine, Lower Valais, northern Prättigau, 20 to 30 cm; from the eastern Bernese Oberland into the Glarner Alps, up to 50 cm
- remaining Valais, remaining northern and central Grisons, 10 to 20 cm
- further to the south, less

Snowfall down to low altitudes

Temperature

At 2000 m in northern regions, minus 7 degrees; in southern regions, minus 4 degrees

Wind

Moderate velocity winds, at strong velocity to some extent at high altitudes, shifting from westerly to northwesterly

Outlook until Sunday, 13.1.2013

Saturday

During the night in northern and eastern regions the snowfall will taper off. During the day it will be partly sunny in northern regions, quite sunny in the Valais and in southern regions. In the afternoon, new clouds will move in from the west. It will remain cold. The avalanche danger is expected to decrease somewhat.

Sunday

Skies will be heavily overcast in all regions accompanied by light snowfall down to low altitudes. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.