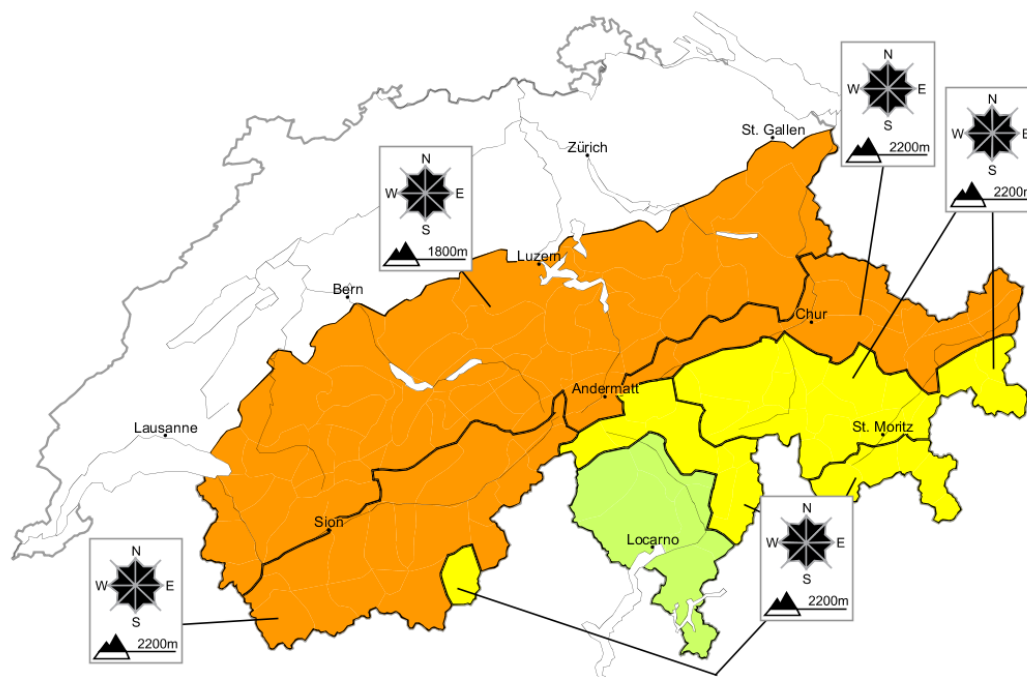


Outside marked and open pistes a critical avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 12.1.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 12.1.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 12.1.2013, 08:00



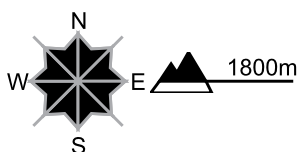
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

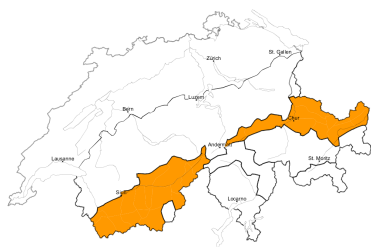


Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are very prone to triggering. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can reach medium size. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

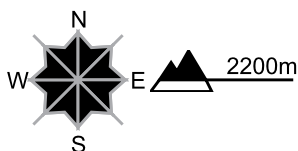
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. 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.

Old snow

Schanfigg, Davos and Lower Engadine north of the Inn: 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.

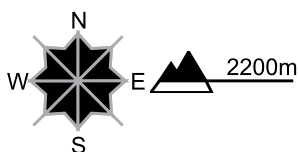
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

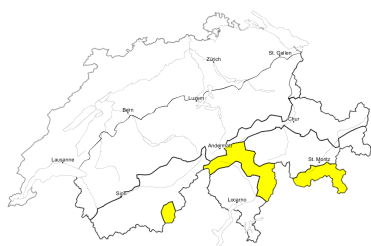


Danger description

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.

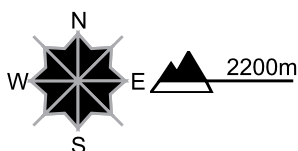
Region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can be released easily. They are to be bypassed as far as possible. In the central part of the main Alpine ridge and at elevated altitudes avalanche prone locations are more prevalent. 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. 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 11.1.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The fresh fallen and drifted snow of Friday have been deposited widespread on top of an unfavourable old snowpack surface. They will remain prone to triggering on Saturday as well and can be easily triggered even by one single backcountry skier or freerider.

Particularly in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, in the Engadine and in the Münstertal, the more deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover are faceted and weak to some extent. In these regions more than anywhere else, isolated avalanches can be triggered in the weak layers and grow to medium size.

Observed weather on Friday, 11.1.2013

Skies were heavily overcast. There was snowfall widespread. On the southern flank of the Alps it was partly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday afternoon the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:

- Northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, region between Arolla and the Matter Vispa, Prättigau, 30 to 40 cm; from place to place as much as 50 cm
- remaining Valais not including Simplon region, remaining northern Grisons, 15 to 30 cm
- further to the south, significantly less; on the southern flank of the Alps it was dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions minus 6 degrees, in southern regions minus 3 degrees

Wind

Predominantly moderate velocity from the northwest

Weather forecast until Saturday, 12.1.2013

Following the end of the snowfall it will be quite sunny everywhere in northeastern regions. In the afternoon, new cloud will move in from the west.

Fresh snow

During the night the following amounts of snowfall are anticipated:

- central and eastern parts of northern flank of the Alps, approximately 10 cm
- remaining regions, just a few centimeters or it will be dry

Temperature

Temperature at midday at 2000 m: in western regions minus 4 degrees, in eastern regions minus 8 degrees

Wind

Light to moderate strength, in high alpine regions at strong velocity, from westerly to northwesterly directions

Outlook until Monday, 14.1.2013

On Sunday and Monday it will be predominantly overcast. A small amount of snowfall is expected down to low altitudes. The avalanche danger is expected to gradually decrease, but the situation will remain treacherous for tours in outlying terrain.