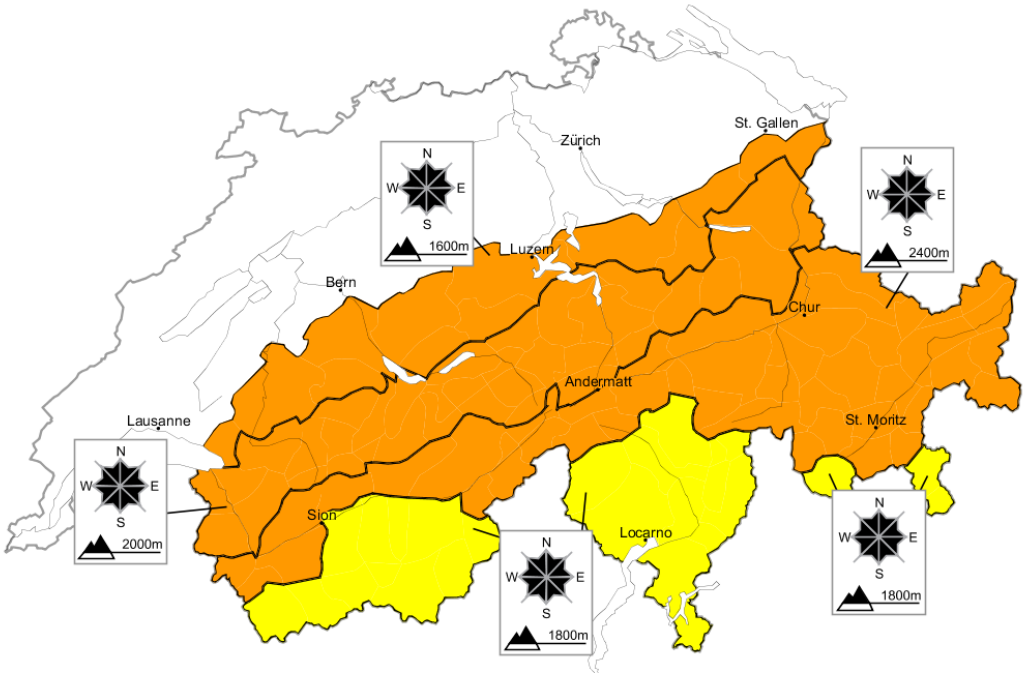
Outside marked and open pistes a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 17.1.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 17.1.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

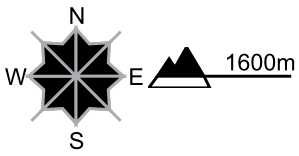
updated on 17.1.2013, 08:00



Region A — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



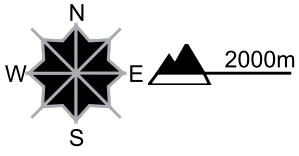
Danger description

Avalanches can be released in the various layers of fresh snow and snow drift accumulations and reach medium size in some cases. They can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. 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

The northeasterly wind will transport the fresh snow. Avalanches can be released in the various layers of fresh snow and snow drift accumulations and reach medium size in some cases. They can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. 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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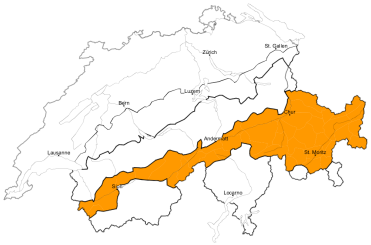
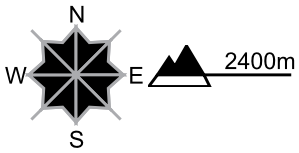
Region C — Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



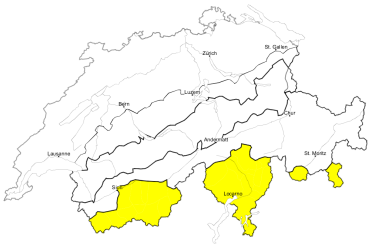
Danger description

The northeasterly wind will transport the fresh snow and, in some cases, old snow as well. The brittle snow drift accumulations can be released easily, even by a single winter sport participant. They are to be avoided as far as possible.

Old snow

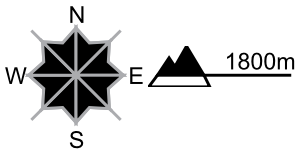
In addition avalanches can in very isolated cases be triggered in deep layers and reach medium size, especially in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, in Engadine and in Val Müstair. This applies especially on steep, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes. Careful route selection is advisable.

Region D — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can be released easily. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more widespread. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.1.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

On the southern flank of the Alps, the surface of the old snow cover is hardened and heavily impacted by the wind far and wide. In the northern regions, the snow which has fallen since the weekend is generally loosely packed. Particularly in areas adjacent to ridgelines and pass areas, as well as in high alpine regions, fresh snow drift accumulations have formed anew. They are predominantly small sized in southern regions; in northern regions they are somewhat deeper and also more wide ranging. The fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering.
In the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in the Münstertal, more than anywhere else, several deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack are faceted and weak in some places. Particularly in places on steep, north facing slopes where the snow is shallow, avalanches can in very isolated cases be triggered in these weak layers and then grow to medium size.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 16.1.2013

Skies were heavily overcast in general, accompanied by light snowfall especially in eastern and southern regions. In western regions and in the Valais it was intermittently sunny.

Fresh snow

- northern Prealps, Chablais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, southern flank of the Alps not including Simplon region, 10 to 20 cm; from place to place in northern regions, as much as 30 cm
- remaining regions, 5 to 10 cm
- in central Valais, just a few centimeters

Between Sunday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais, southern flank of the Alps not including Simplon region, 10 to 20 cm; from place to place in northern regions, as much as 40 cm
- elsewhere 5 to 10 cm

Because precipitation fell in the form of showers, snow depths vary greatly from place to place.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, minus 14 degrees in northern regions, minus 11 degrees in southern regions

Wind

In northern regions, light to moderate velocity westerly winds shifting to northerly. In southern regions, moderate to strong northerly winds.

Weather forecast until Thursday, 17.1.2013

During the night it will be heavily overcast far and wide. Excluding in Ticino, snowfall is anticipated widespread down to low altitudes. During the day the snowfall is expected to persist in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps as well as in Prättigau. In the Valais and in Ticino, some bright intervals are anticipated.

Fresh snow

- northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Alps to Liechtenstein as well as Prättigau, Silvretta, Samnaun, 10 to 20 cm
- remaining regions, just a few centimeters

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, minus 14 degrees in northern regions, minus 11 degrees in southern regions

Wind

Moderate to strong velocity northeasterly winds at high altitudes. In northern regions, moderate bise winds will be blowing intermittently, particularly during the night and on Thursday morning. In southern regions, a moderate strength northerly wind will be blowing down to low altitudes. Fresh, brittle snow drift accumulations are expected to form anew.

Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 17 January 2013

Outlook until Saturday, 19.1.2013

Friday

On Thursday night in northern and eastern regions the snowfall will come to an end. During the day on Friday it will be predominantly sunny and somewhat less cold. In eastern regions and in the Prealps, it will turn increasingly sunny after the residual cloud disperses. In western regions new clouds are expected to move in during the afternoon. The avalanche danger is expected to decrease in western and southern regions in particular.

Saturday

In eastern regions weather conditions will still be foehn-influenced to begin with, elsewhere skies will be overcast accompanied by snowfall in western and southern regions in particular. The avalanche danger may well increase from region to region.