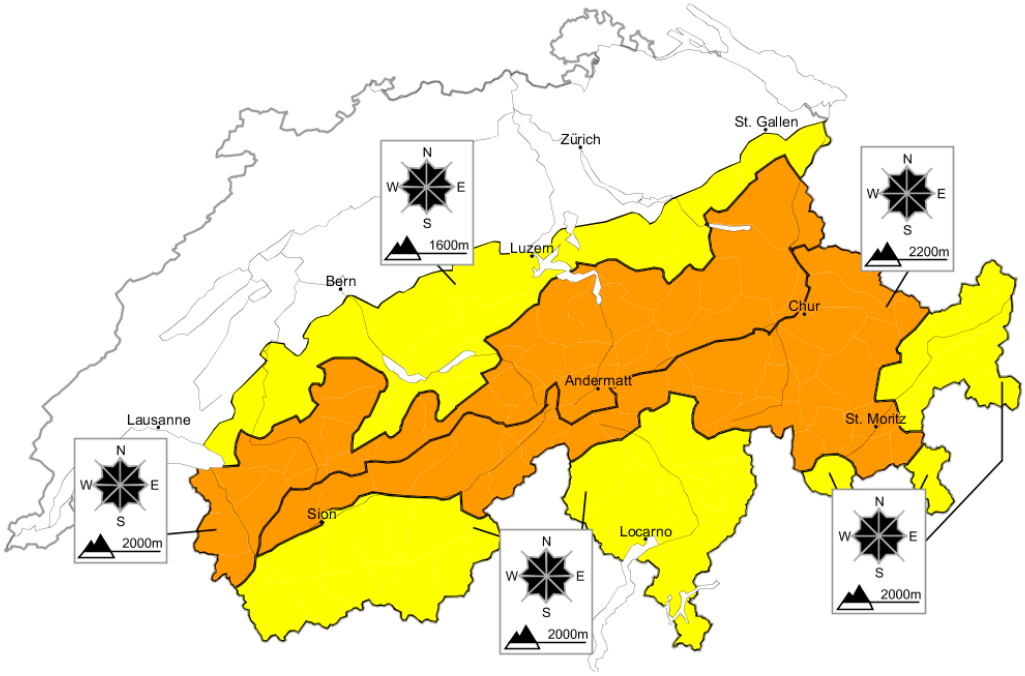
Outside marked and open pistes a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

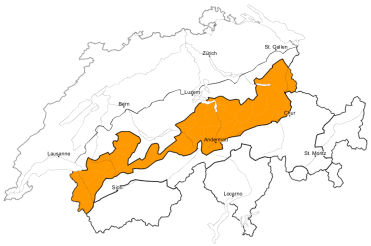
Edition: 18.1.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 18.1.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 18.1.2013, 08:00

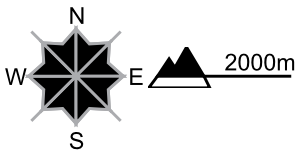


Region A — Level 3, considerable



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. 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.

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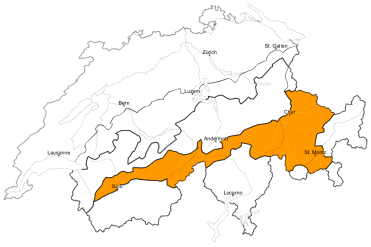
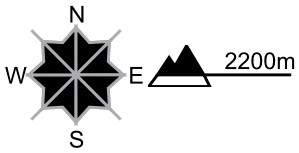
Region B — Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



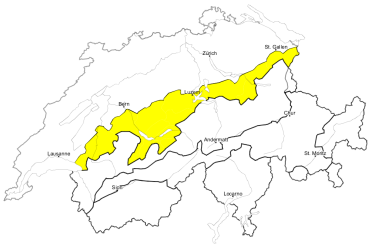
Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days are prone to triggering. 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.

Old snow

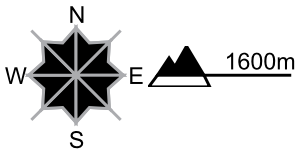
The inneralpine regions of Grisons, Engadine and Val Müstair: In addition avalanches can in very isolated cases be triggered in deep layers and reach medium size. This applies especially on steep, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes. Careful route selection is advisable.

Region C — Level 2, moderate



Fresh snow and snow drifts

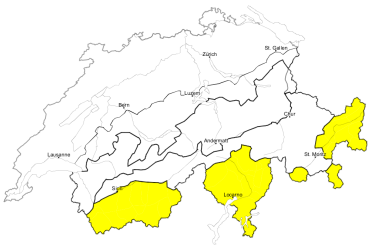
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

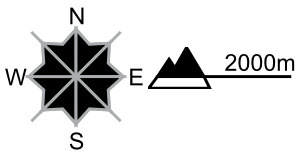
Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed as far as possible.

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 and the danger is greater. The snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

Old snow

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

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.1.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The surface of the old snow cover on the southern flank of the Alps is hardened and heavily impacted by the wind far and wide. In the northern regions the snow which has fallen since the weekend is predominantly loosely packed. Fresh snowdrift accumulations have formed anew at high altitudes in particular, as a result of northerly winds. In southern regions the drifted masses are generally small sized and can be easily recognized. In northern regions they are deeper and also more wide ranging. The freshly formed snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering.
In the inneralpine regions of Grisons as well as in the Münstertal, more than anywhere else, the deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack are to some extent faceted and weak. Avalanches can be triggered from these weak layers in very isolated cases and grow to medium size, particularly in places where the snow is shallow on steep, north facing slopes.

Observed weather on Thursday, 17.1.2013

In northern and eastern regions skies in general were heavily overcast accompanied by light snow showers in eastern regions. In the Valais it was partly sunny, in southern regions there were intermittent bright spells.

Fresh snow
· northern Prealps and Prättigau, 10 to 20 cm
· elsewhere just a few centimeters
Between Sunday afternoon and Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:
· northern flank of the Alps, 20 to 30 cm, from place to place as much as 40 cm
· elsewhere 5 to 20 cm
As a result of the showerlike character of the precipitation, the depths of fresh fallen snow on the northern flank of the Alps are highly varied from place to place.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, minus 15 degrees in northern regions, minus 11 degrees in southern regions

Wind
In the northern part of the Alpine Ridge, on the Main Alpine Ridge as well as in northern and central Ticino, moderate to strong velocity, elsewhere light to moderate velocity northerly to northeasterly winds. At high altitudes and in high alpine regions fresh snow drift accumulations formed anew.

Weather forecast until Friday, 18.1.2013

During the night in northern and eastern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. During the day it will be predominantly sunny. In the afternoon in western regions, cloud will move in.

Fresh snow
In the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, 5 to 10 cm, in the bordering regions only a few centimeters

Temperature
Temperatures are expected to rise. At midday at 2000 m: between minus 7 degrees in western and southern regions and minus 11 degrees in eastern regions.

Wind
The wind will slacken off during the night. During the day winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength and shift to westerly.

Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 18 January 2013

Outlook until Sunday, 20.1.2013

Saturday
In eastern regions, weather conditions will still be foehn influenced, elsewhere skies will be heavily overcast in general. During the morning in western and southern regions, snowfall is expected to set in. Moderate to strong southwesterly winds. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.

Sunday
Skies will be heavily overcast, accompanied by snowfall in western and southern regions in particular. The avalanche danger may well increase somewhat in southern regions.