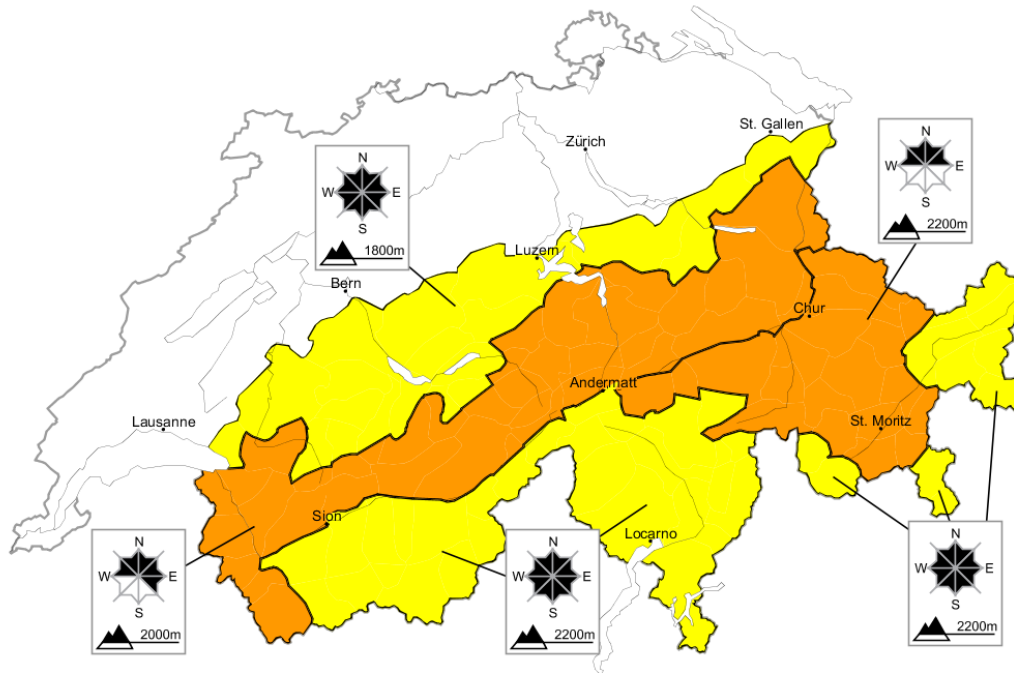


# As a consequence of wind a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 19.1.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 19.1.2013, 17:00

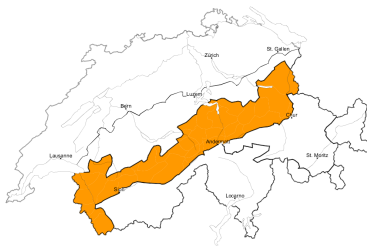
## Avalanche danger

updated on 19.1.2013, 08:00



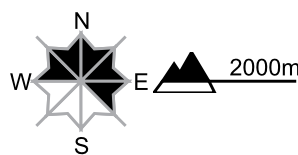
### Region A

**Level 3, considerable**



#### Snow drifts

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As a consequence of the southwesterly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. This applies especially in the regions that are exposed to the foehn wind. Snow drift accumulations can be released 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.

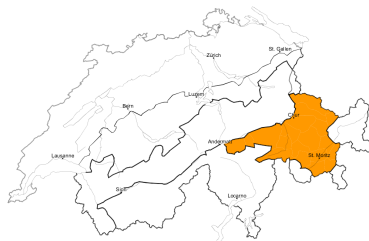
4 high

5 very high



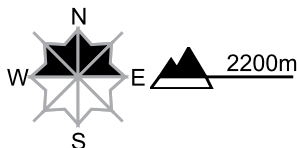
**Region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

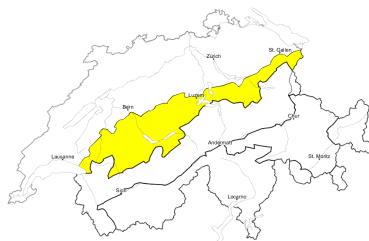
As a consequence of the southwesterly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. This applies especially adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas as well as in the regions that are exposed to the foehn wind. Snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

**Old snow**

The inneralpine regions: 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.

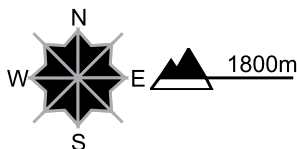
**Region C**

**Level 2, moderate**



**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. Regions that are exposed to the foehn wind: The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed as far as possible.

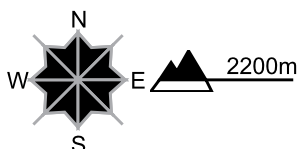
**Region D**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of the southwesterly wind avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. These are mostly only small but can be released easily. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are a little more prevalent. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

**Old snow**

Lower 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.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 18.1.2013, 17:00

### Snowpack

The surface of the old snow cover on the southern flank of the Alps is heavily impacted by wind and quite hardened widespread. In the northern regions the new fallen snow from this past week is loosely packed in general. As a result of moderate to strong velocity northerly winds snow drift accumulations formed by Friday morning, particularly at high altitudes, which tend to become more prone to triggering with ascending altitude and as the impact of the wind increases. Following only a small amount of snow transport on Friday, a new period of snow transported by winds is expected to follow on Saturday.

In the inneralpine regions of Grisons as well as in the Münstertal, more than anywhere else, deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack are to some extent faceted and weak. Particularly in the places where snow is shallow on steep, north facing slopes, avalanches can in very isolated cases be triggered in these weak layers and grow to medium size.

### Observed weather on Friday, 18.1.2013

Apart from high altitude cloudbanks it was predominantly sunny in the mountains. During the afternoon, the clouds became denser from the west.

#### Fresh snow

-

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between minus 7 degrees in northern regions and minus 5 degrees in southern regions

#### Wind

On Thursday night, particularly in the northern sector of the Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge, winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity. During the day, they slackened off significantly.

### Weather forecast until Saturday, 19.1.2013

In the foehn-exposed regions of the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, in northern and central Grisons and in the Lower Engadine, bright intervals are anticipated and it will be dry. In the remaining regions, skies will be overcast accompanied by snowfall.

#### Fresh snow

- westernmost Lower Valais, 5 to 15 cm
- western part of northern flank of the Alps, remaining Valais, 5 to 10 cm
- southern flank of the Alps, Upper Engadine, just a few centimeters
- remaining regions, predominantly dry

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between minus 2 degrees in northern regions and minus 6 degrees in southern regions

#### Wind

During the course of the day, southwesterly winds will intensify significantly, incrementally augmenting to moderate to strong velocity at high altitudes. With this increase, loosely packed snow will once again be transported.

### Outlook until Monday, 21.1.2013

On Sunday and Monday, skies will be heavily overcast in general accompanied by snowfall on the southern flank of the Alps in particular. By Monday evening as much as a half meter of new fallen snow is expected from place to place on the southern flank of the Alps. On Sunday it will temporarily become somewhat warmer in northern regions in particular. The southwesterly wind is expected to persist, but by Monday will slacken off noticeably. The avalanche danger is expected to increase on the southern flank of the Alps.