**Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 20 January 2013**

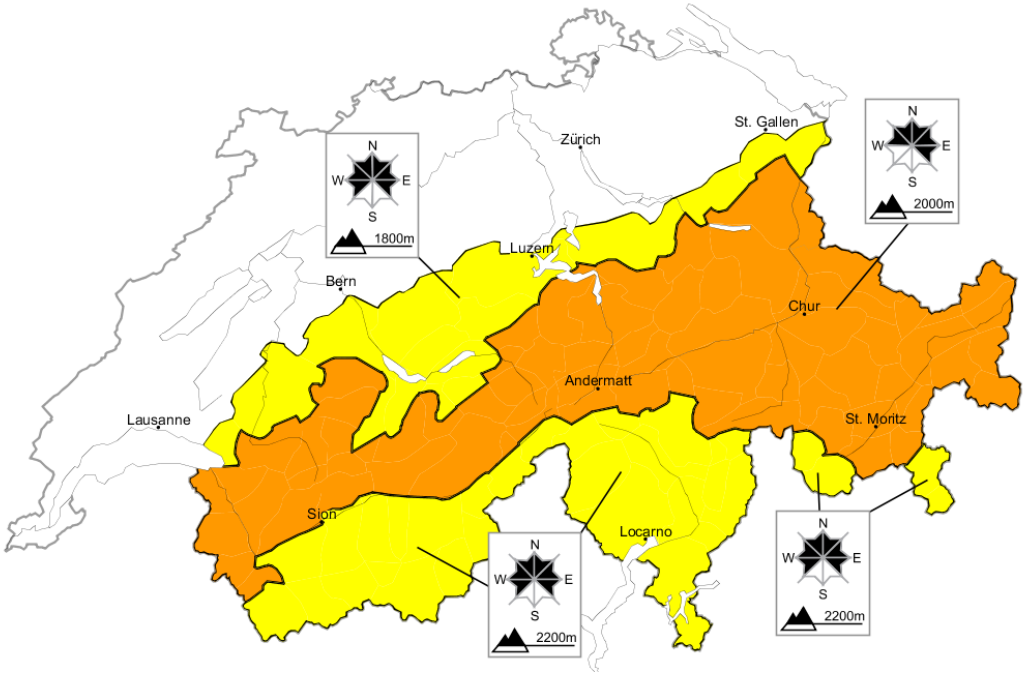
20.1.2013, 08:02

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

Edition: 20.1.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 20.1.2013, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

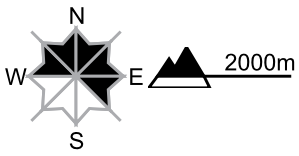
updated on 20.1.2013, 08:00




## Region A — Level 3, considerable

### Snow drifts

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

Avalanche prone snow drift accumulations will form. This applies especially adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas as well as in the regions of the north that are exposed to the foehn wind. Snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. The avalanches can reach dangerously large size. Remote triggering is possible. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. 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 of Grisons and Val Müstair: In addition avalanches can in 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.

**Danger levels** 1 low | 2 moderate | 3 consider. | 4 high | 5 very high

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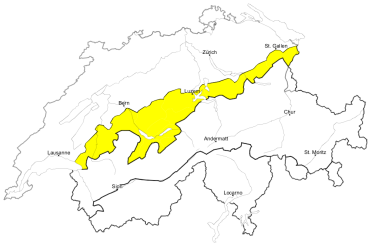
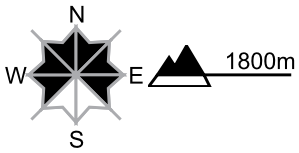
## Region B — Level 2, moderate



### Snow drifts

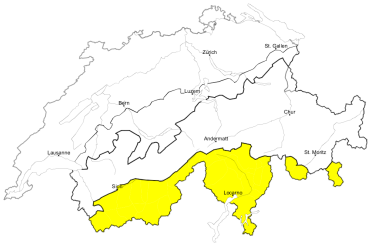
**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

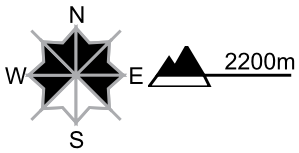
The more recent snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can be released easily. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed as far as possible.

## Region C — Level 2, moderate



### Snow drifts

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

Easily released snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be avoided. The avalanche danger will increase a little during the day. This applies in particular in Val Moesa and Val Calanca, in Val Bregaglia and in Val Poschiavo. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is greater.



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# Snowpack and weather

updated on 19.1.2013, 17:00

## Snowpack

As a result of the moderate, intermittently also strong velocity southwesterly winds, fresh, easily triggerable snow drift accumulations are forming anew. This applies particularly to the foehn-exposed regions of the north and to areas adjacent to ridgelines and pass areas in general. There are great masses of loosely packed, transportable snow on the northern flank of the Alps in particular, as well as in the northern sectors of northern and central Grisons. Even deep and hardened accumulations of snow drift can be triggered, especially along their edges and rims where they are thinner. Remote triggerings and naturally triggered avalanches are possible. Avalanches can grow to medium, quite dangerous size for backcountry skiers and freeriders.
In the inneralpine regions of Grisons as well as in the Münstertal, more than anywhere else, deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover are to some extent faceted and weak. Particularly in places where the snow is shallow on steep, north facing slopes these weak layers can in isolated cases be triggered and grow to medium size. In addition, avalanches which are released in the snowdrift can produce fractures in these more deeply embedded layers.
In the remaining sectors of the southern flank of the Alps, the surface of the snow cover far and wide is hardened and the snowpack in general is favourably structured.

## Observed weather on Saturday, 19.1.2013

On Saturday it was intermittently sunny in the foehn-exposed regions of the north in particular, as well as in the inneralpine regions of Grisons; in the remaining regions skies were heavily overcast.

**Fresh snow**
In the furthermost western regions of the Lower Valais there were a few centimeters of fresh fallen snow. Elsewhere it remained predominantly dry.

**Temperature**
At midday at 2000 m, between minus 2 degrees in northern regions and minus 7 degrees in southern regions

**Wind**
The southwesterly winds intensified on Friday night and were blowing widespread at moderate strength, intermittently at strong velocity.

## Weather forecast until Sunday, 20.1.2013

To begin with in eastern regions there will still be foehn-induced bright intervals, later on, as already previously in the remaining regions, skies will be heavily overcast. In southern regions in particular, snowfall is anticipated.

**Fresh snow**
· from Ticino into the Upper Engadine, Val Poschiavo and Münstertal, 10 to 20 cm
· bordering regions, up to 10 cm
· elsewhere predominantly dry
The snowfall level will drop from about 1300 to 1500 m to start with down to below 1000 m.

**Temperature**
At midday at 2000 m, between plus 1 degree in northern regions and minus 4 degrees in southern regions

**Wind**
On Saturday night and during the morning hours of Sunday, the southwesterly wind will still be blowing at strong velocity far and wide. In the afternoon it will slacken off noticeably. The tendency for snowdrift accumulations to form will persist for a time.

# Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 20 January 2013

## Outlook until Tuesday, 22.1.2013

**Monday**
Skies will be heavily overcast in general, accompanied by a small amount of snowfall. It will again turn significantly colder. The avalanche danger is expected to gradually subside.

**Tuesday**
Variably cloudy skies accompanied by only a small amount of precipitation. The avalanche danger will slowly decrease.