Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 23 January 2013

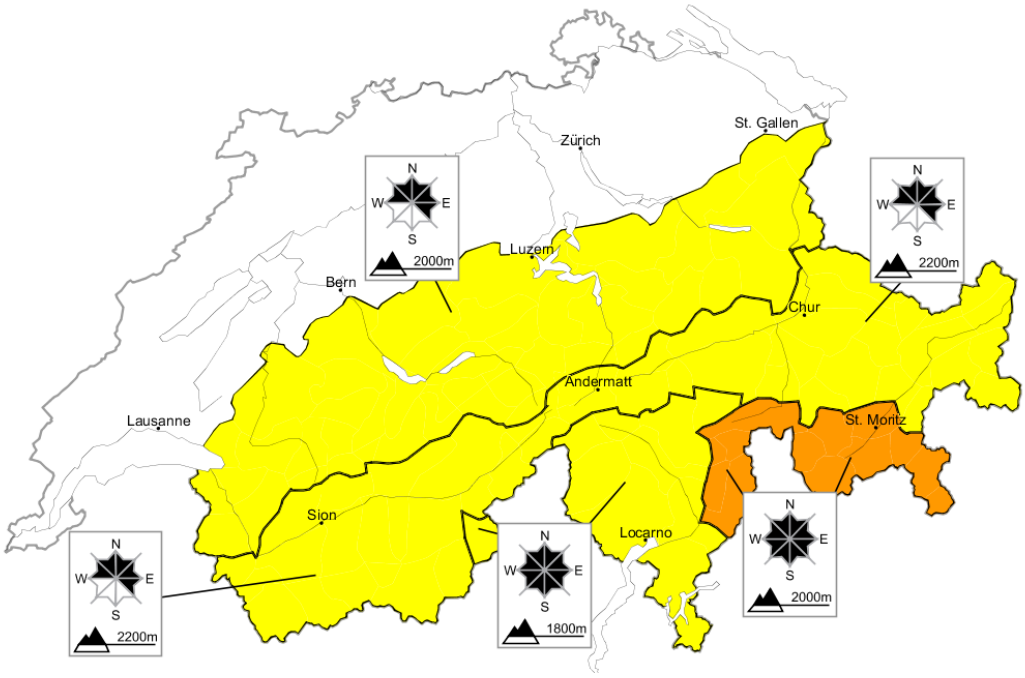
23.1.2013, 07:48

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Fresh and older snow drifts require caution

Edition: 23.1.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 23.1.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

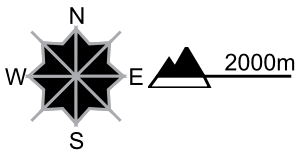
updated on 23.1.2013, 08:00



Region A — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



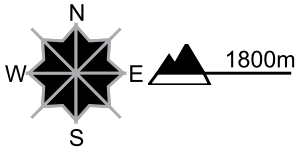
Danger description

As a consequence of the northerly wind easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. They are to be found especially in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed as far as possible. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

Region B — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the moderate wind easily released snow drift accumulations have formed. These are mostly small. They are to be found especially in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The snow drift accumulations are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. They are to be bypassed as far as possible.

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

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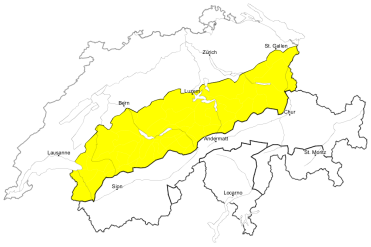
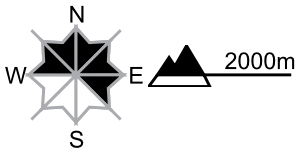
Region C — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

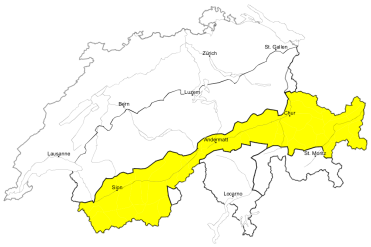
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

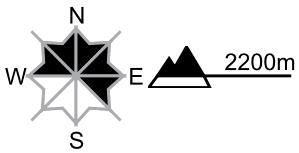
Fresh and older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. The older snow drift accumulations can be released, especially by large additional loads. This applies especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Region D — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. The older snow drift accumulations can be released, especially by large additional loads. This applies especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. In the western part of the main Alpine ridge the snow drift accumulations are larger, especially in high Alpine regions along the border with Italy. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 22.1.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

Adjacent to the ridge line, in pass areas, and in the northern regions exposed to the foehn wind, the surface of the snowpack has been significantly influenced by the wind.
The older snow drift accumulations from the weekend are hard in many cases. Triggering remains possible, especially at their shallow margins. Further snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering formed on Tuesday. These are generally small. In the regions with large quantities of loosely bonded fresh snow, namely from Ticino via Upper Engadine to Val Poschiavo, they are deeper. In the eastern regions, the snow drift accumulations are lightly covered with fresh snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise.
In particular in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in Val Müstair, deep layers of the snowpack are faceted and weakly bonded in some places. Here, in particular where the snowpack is shallow on steep north facing slopes, avalanches can be released in these weak layers in very isolated cases and reach medium size.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 22.1.2013

During the night, a little further snow fell in the east, even at low altitudes. During the day, the weather was mostly sunny in the west and south, and increasingly bright in the north and east.

Fresh snow
From Sunday morning until Tuesday morning, the following aggregate amounts of snow fell:
- Eastern Ticino, Val Calanca, Val Moesa, and from Rheinwald via Val Bregaglia and Upper Engadine to Val Poschiavo: 30 to 50 cm
- Western Ticino, Avers: 20 to 30 cm
- Neighbouring regions and the Simplon region: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere: smaller amounts

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: between minus 8 degrees in the north and minus 5 degrees in the south

Wind
Light to moderate from the west, but moderate northerly foehn wind in Ticino

Weather forecast until Wednesday, 23.1.2013

It will be quite sunny at first. During the day, cloud will build up from the southwest.

Fresh snow
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Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: about minus 6 degrees

Wind
Light, direction variable

Outlook until Friday, 25.1.2013

Thursday will be partly cloudy, and a little snow will fall in some regions. Friday will be mostly sunny. The northerly wind will be light to moderate. It will remain cold. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.