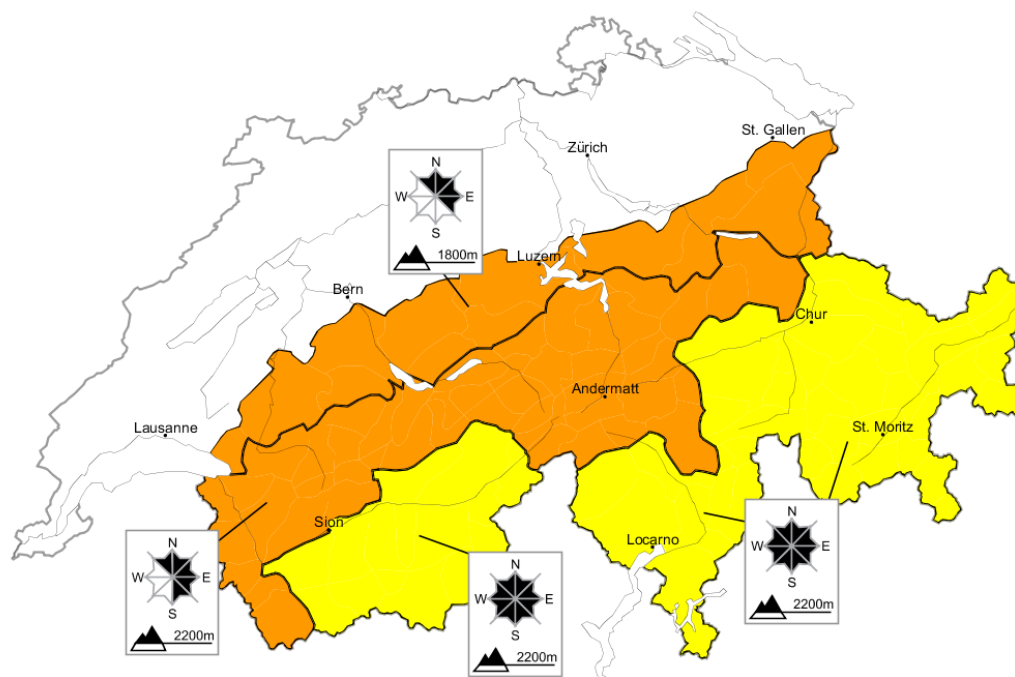


As a consequence of the sometimes storm force wind easily released snow drift accumulations will form

Edition: 29.1.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 29.1.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 29.1.2013, 08:00



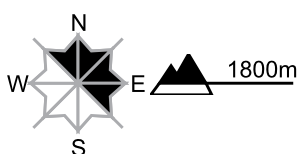
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the westerly wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations will form. These will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. They 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.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected. They can be released at any time of day or night. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. As a consequence of the rain moist snow slides are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

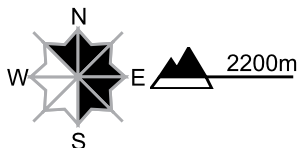
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind clearly visible snow drift accumulations will form. These will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and exist in all aspects. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Central Grisons: In very isolated cases avalanches can be released in deep layers and reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected. They can be released at any time of day or night. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. As a consequence of the rain moist snow slides are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. This applies in particular on the northern flank of the Alps and in Lower Valais.

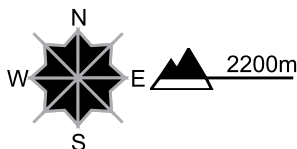
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

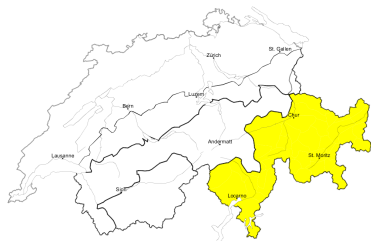
The snow drift accumulations are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. They can be released easily, but they will be small in most cases. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is level 3 (considerable). Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection. Southern Valais: In very isolated cases avalanches can be released in deep layers and reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes.

Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

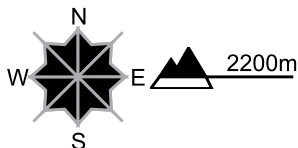
Region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. They can be released easily, but they will be small in most cases. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection. The inneralpine regions and Engadine: In very isolated cases avalanches can be released in deep layers and reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes.

Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



Snowpack and weather

updated on 28.1.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The fresh and drifted snow have not bonded well with the surface of the old snowpack, which is faceted on many shady slopes.

North of a line between the Rhone and Rhine and in southern Lower Valais and the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, the deeper layers of the snowpack are mostly well bonded. In southern Upper Valais and the rest of Grisons, these layers are faceted and weak in some cases. Here, in very isolated cases, avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size, in particular in areas with shallow snow cover in west to north to east facing aspects.

Observed weather on Monday, 28.1.2013

Until the morning, snow was falling over a wide area, even at low altitudes. During the day, it became increasingly sunny from the west.

Fresh snow

By the time the precipitation ceased in the morning, the following amounts of snow had fallen:

- Northern flank of the Alps excluding the Gotthard region, northern Valais, Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm over a wide area, and as much as 25 cm in some localities
- Southern Upper Valais, Urseren, northern Grisons: 5 to 10 cm
- Central Grisons, Engadine, southern flank of the Alps: practically no precipitation

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -6 degrees in the north and -3 degrees in the south

Wind

- Mostly moderate during the night, but initially strong from the west in the western Prealps
- Moderate to locally strong during the day in the central part of the main Alpine ridge, but mostly light from the north elsewhere

Weather forecast until Tuesday, 29.1.2013

A strong westerly airstream will give rise to mostly cloudy and warm conditions from the morning. In the afternoon, a little precipitation will fall in the north. It will be mostly sunny in the south.

Fresh snow

5 to 10 cm in the afternoon in the north. The snowfall level will rise to above 2000 m in the northwest.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about +1 degree in the west and -1 degree in the east

Wind

Moderate to strong, storm force at times in the afternoon, from the west to northwest

Outlook until Thursday, 31.1.2013

Wednesday

The weather will be quite sunny everywhere at first. In the north, cloud will build up during the day and a little precipitation will fall towards the evening. The snowfall level will be 2000 m at first, before falling. The westerly wind will be storm force on the northern flank of the Alps in particular. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.

Thursday

During the night a little snow will fall above approximately 1500 m in the north. It will be partly sunny during the day. It will be fairly sunny in the south. The westerly wind will be strong. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease slowly. The danger of full-depth avalanches will persist.