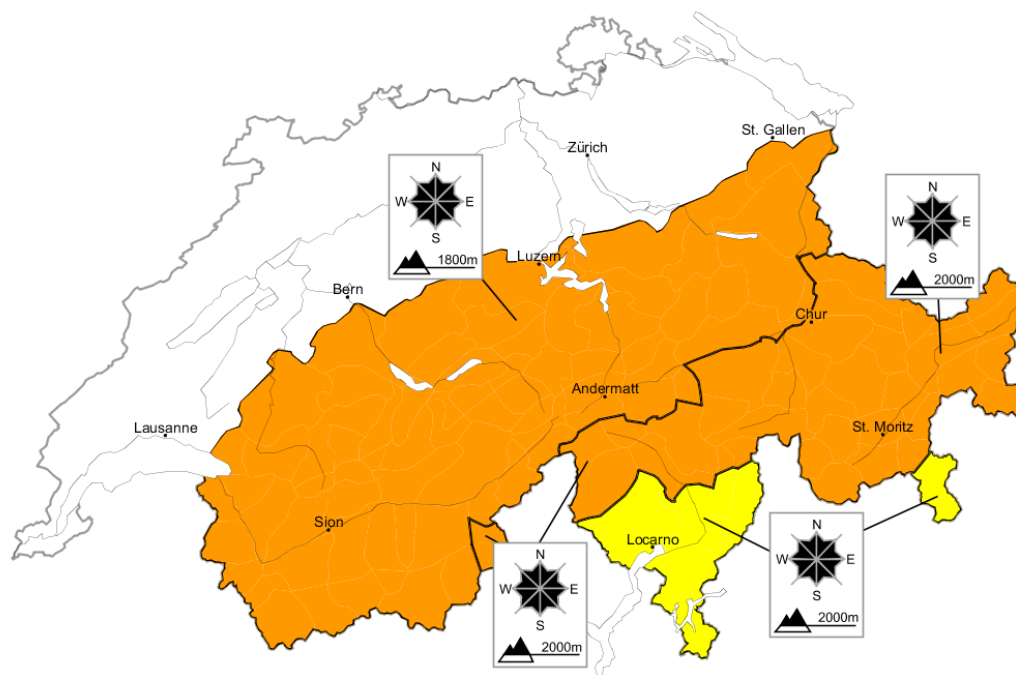


Outside marked and open pistes a critical avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 3.2.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 3.2.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 3.2.2013, 08:00

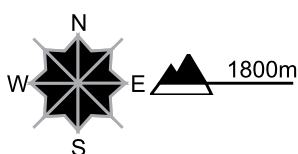


Region A Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind the already large snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. Medium-sized avalanches are to be expected. These can be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for great caution and restraint. Western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps as well as Valais: In particular from starting zones at higher altitudes individual large avalanches are possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases.

Full-depth avalanches

Northern flank of the Alps, Valais: Individual full-depth avalanches are possible, in particular below approximately 2000 m.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

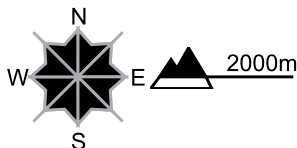
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind dangerous snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can be released in deep layers of the snowpack and reach medium size in some cases. This applies especially in central Grisons and in Engadine. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

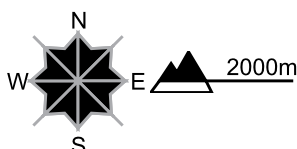
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The mostly small snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. They are easy to recognise and can in some cases be released easily. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 2.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

Amidst intermittently strong velocity westerly to northerly winds and snowfall, wide ranging snow drift accumulations have formed in many places above approximately 2200 m. The bonding between the new fallen and drifted snow masses and the old snowpack surface is still unfavourable widespread above approximately 2000 m. On the northern flank of the Alps the old snow cover below about 1600 m is thoroughly wet.

In the southern Upper Valais and in Grisons there are intermediate and more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack which are to some extent faceted and weak. Particularly on west to north to east facing slopes in those regions, dry avalanches can fracture in the old snow cover in isolated cases. In the remaining regions, fractures in the layers of the snow cover nearest to the ground are not likely.

Observed weather on Saturday, 2.2.2013

It was heavily overcast. There was snowfall widespread, with the snowfall level dropping from approximately 1800 m down to below 1000 m only as of the early morning hours.

Fresh snow

The amounts of new fallen snow increased significantly with ascending altitude. Between Thursday evening and Saturday evening above 2000 m the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- on the northern flank of the Alps from Chablais into the Glarner Alps as well as in the Valais, 40 to 70 cm; in the western and northern Lower Valais as much as 80 cm
- in the remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in the remaining Gotthard region and in northern Grisons, 20 to 40 cm
- from northern Ticino over central Grisons into northern Lower Engadine, 10 to 20 cm
- further to the south, significantly less

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions minus 9 degrees, in southern regions minus 6 degrees

Wind

In the evening moderate to strong velocity westerly to southwesterly winds, during the day moderate, in some places strong velocity northerly to northwesterly winds

Weather forecast until Sunday, 3.2.2013

In northern and eastern regions more than anywhere else, snowfall down to low lying areas is anticipated. In western regions, bright intervals are expected during the afternoon. In southern Valais it will be partly, in Ticino rather sunny, accompanied by northerly winds.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday evening and Sunday evening the following amounts of new fallen snow are expected:

- northern flank of the Alps from the Bernese Oberland into Liechtenstein, 10 to 20 cm, from place to place as much as 30 cm
- remaining regions, 5 to 10 cm
- southern flank of the Alps, predominantly dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, minus 11 degrees

Wind

Along the Main Alpine Ridge, in Ticino as well as at high altitudes in general, strong, to some extent storm strength northerly winds; in the remaining regions the northerly winds will be moderate

Outlook until Tuesday, 5.2.2013

In northern regions skies will be heavily overcast in general. Intermittent snowfall is anticipated. In southern regions it will be dry and quite sunny. The avalanche situation is expected to remain critical, particularly for backcountry skiers and freeriders in outlying terrain away from secured ski slopes.

