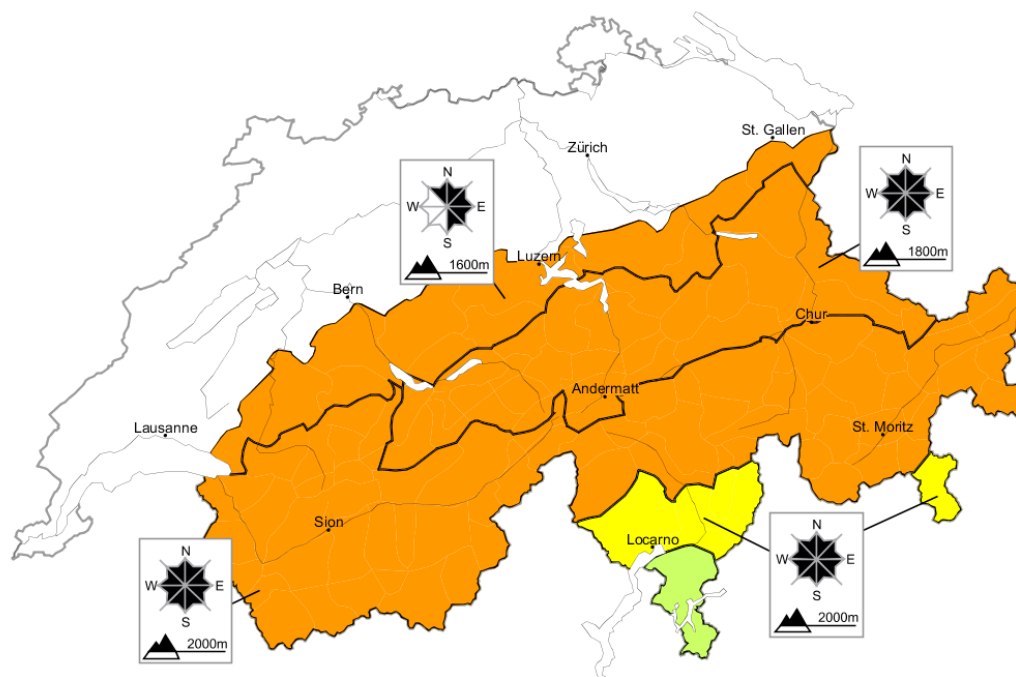


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Snow drifts represent the main danger

Edition: 5.2.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 5.2.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 5.2.2013, 08:00



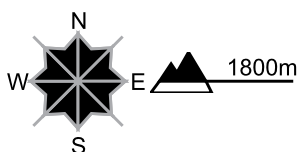
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes storm force wind further snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Avalanches can reach medium size. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for great caution and restraint.

Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m full-depth avalanches are to be expected.

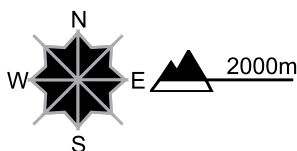
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. In addition avalanches can in isolated cases be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size, especially in the inneralpine regions. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Bernese Oberland, Valais: In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent. Here individual natural avalanches are possible.

Full-depth avalanches

In particular on the northern flank of the Alps and in Lower Valais individual full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

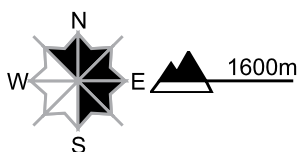
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes storm force wind further snow drift accumulations will form. These can be released, even 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.

Full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m full-depth avalanches are to be expected.

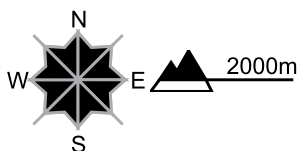
Region D

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.

Region E

Level 1, low



Snow drifts

Only a little snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

In recent days, fresh snow and strong westerly winds have given rise to large snow drift accumulations in the west and north in particular. They are prone to triggering and can be released very easily in some cases.

In particular in the inneralpine regions of Valais, and in central Grisons and Engadine, middle and deep layers of the snowpack are faceted and weak in some cases. In these regions, isolated avalanches can be released in the old snowpack. In the other regions, fractures are unlikely to occur in the near-ground layers of the snowpack.

Observed weather on Monday, 4.2.2013

After a brief interlude, snow began to fall from the north on Sunday night. During the day the weather was quite sunny in the south. From the west and in the inneralpine regions, the weather became increasingly bright during the day. The other regions remained mostly very cloudy, and the snowfall eased slowly. In the north, the snowfall level rose to above 1000 m during the day.

Fresh snow

From Sunday evening until Monday evening, the following amounts of snow fell above approximately 1500 m:

- Northern flank of the Alps from Wildstrubel to Liechtenstein, regions north of the Anterior Rhine and Prättigau: 20 to 40 cm, but up to 50 cm in some localities
- Rest of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais, remaining parts of both the Gotthard region and northern Grisons, Lower Engadine and Val Müstair: 10 to 20 cm
- Further south: smaller amounts

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: -3 degrees in the north and 0 degrees in the south

Wind

Strong from the west

Weather forecast until Tuesday, 5.2.2013

On Monday night the snowfall will ease in the east as well. During the day, the weather will be sunny at times in the south. Elsewhere, in the west and inneralpine regions in particular, it will be changeable with bright spells at first. In the afternoon, snow will begin to fall again in the west, even at low altitudes.

Fresh snow

From Monday evening until Tuesday evening the following amounts of snow will fall:

- Western Jura: 15 to 30 cm
- Rest of the Jura, western Lower Valais, Vaud Alps and eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps: 5 to 15 cm
- Elsewhere: smaller amounts; Ticino will remain dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: -7 degrees in the north and -3 degrees in the south

Wind

In the north and at elevated altitudes, strong to storm force from the west

Outlook until Thursday, 7.2.2013

On each of the next two days, snow will fall in the north and west. It will be quite sunny in the south. The avalanche situation will remain critical.