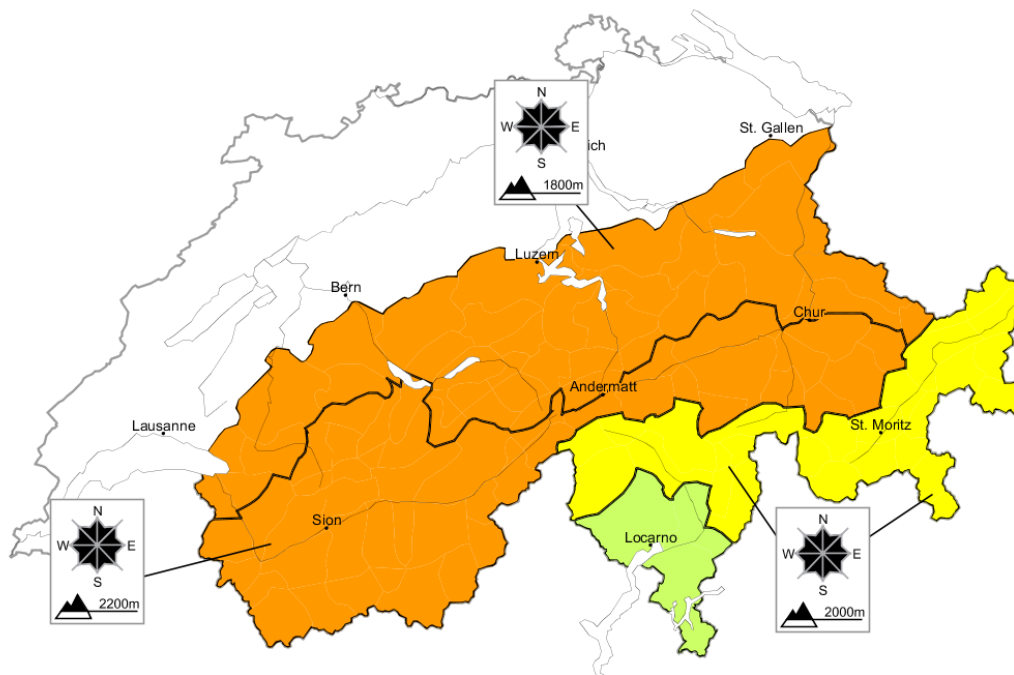


For those venturing off piste a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 10.2.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 10.2.2013, 17:00

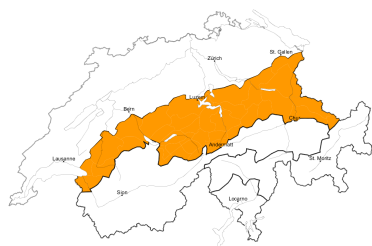
Avalanche danger

updated on 10.2.2013, 08:00



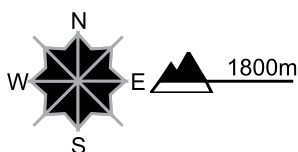
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

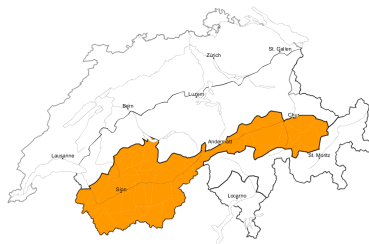
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. The snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can in some cases 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 and careful route selection.

Full-depth avalanches

In particular on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m. This applies especially on steep grassy slopes.

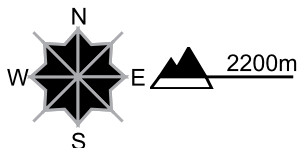
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

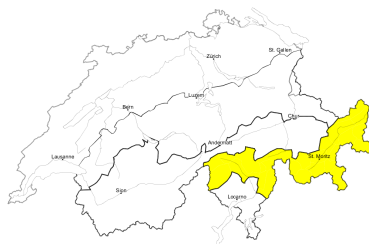
Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers, even by small loads in isolated cases. At elevated altitudes avalanche prone locations are more prevalent. They are difficult to recognise. In addition avalanches can in isolated cases be released in deep layers and reach medium size, especially in the inneralpine regions. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Full-depth avalanches

In particular on the northern flank of the Alps and in Lower Valais small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m. This applies especially on steep grassy slopes.

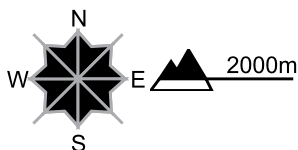
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations are to be found especially adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. At elevated altitudes avalanche prone locations are more prevalent. They are difficult to recognise. In addition avalanches can in isolated cases be released in deep layers and reach medium size, especially in Engadine. Careful route selection is recommended.

Region D

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 9.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

In the northern regions there has been heavy snowfall over the last few days. As a result of the low temperatures, the fresh fallen snow has remained loosely packed and light, making it very easy for winds to transport. Freshly drifted snow masses are prone to triggering. In isolated cases, even older, more deeply embedded layers of accumulated snowdrift built up over the last few days could release as avalanches. These avalanche prone locations have now been blanketed over by fresh fallen snow, which makes them difficult to recognize.

In the inneralpine regions of the Valais, in central Grisons and in the Engadine, more than anywhere else, there are intermediate and more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack which are to some extent faceted and weak. Particularly on steep slopes which are rarely frequented by skiers or freeriders, dry avalanches can fracture in the old snow cover in isolated cases. In the remaining regions, the layers of the snow cover nearest to the ground are not likely to fracture.

Observed weather on Saturday, 9.2.2013

In northern regions there was snowfall down to low altitudes. In western regions there were isolated bright intervals. In eastern and southern regions it was quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Friday evening and Saturday evening:

- northern flank of the Alps east of Lake Thun: 20 to 40 cm
- remaining sectors of northern flank of the Alps, Prättigau: 10 to 20 cm
- elsewhere less, or it remained dry

Temperature

At midday, -12°C in northern regions and -8°C in southern regions

Wind

Light northerly winds, at high altitudes at moderate strength

Weather forecast until Sunday, 10.2.2013

Predominantly sunny to begin with. During the afternoon, cloud will move in from the west and towards evening it will begin to snow there.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -8°C in western regions and -12°C in eastern and southern regions

Wind

Generally light westerly winds to start with, intensifying in the Prealps and in high alpine regions during the course of the day to moderate to strong velocity. Particularly in the Prealps, intensive snow transport will start.

Outlook until Tuesday, 12.2.2013

On both days there will be snowfall down to low altitudes in western and southern regions in particular. In eastern regions, bright intervals are anticipated, accompanied by moderate to strong velocity southwesterly winds. Temperatures are expected to rise. The avalanche danger will increase in southern regions in particular.