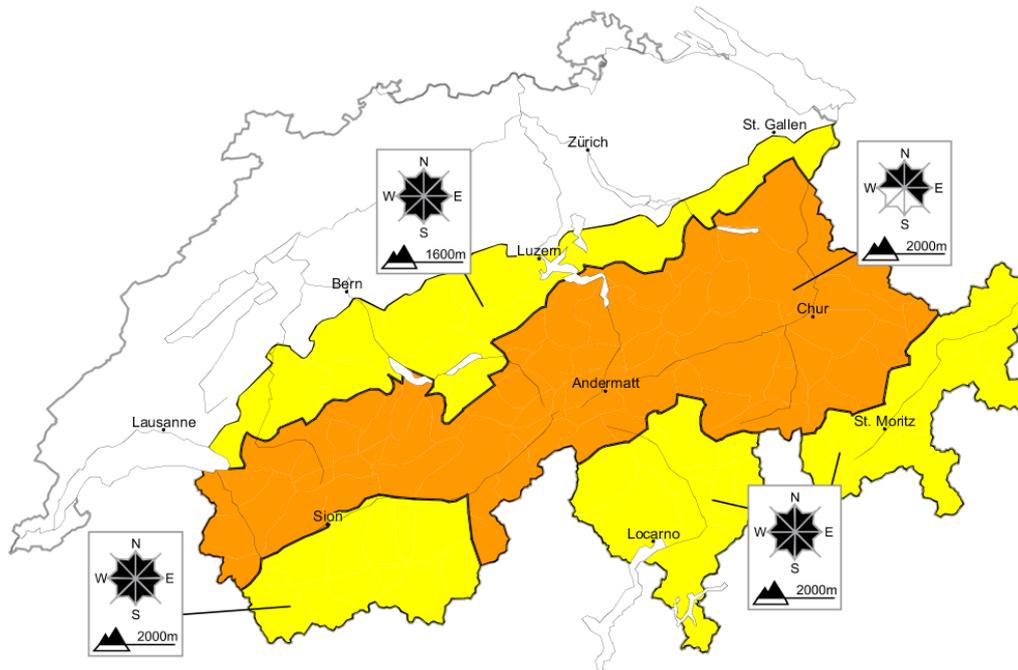


Snow drifts represent the main danger

Edition: 12.2.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 12.2.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 12.2.2013, 08:00

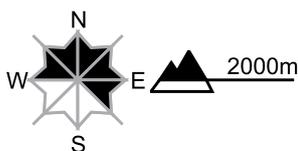


Region A Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are can be released easily. They are to be found in particular on west to north to southeast facing aspects. This also applies adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and barely recognisable. The inneralpine regions of Grisons: In addition avalanches can in isolated cases be released in deep layers. 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, in Lower Valais and in northern Grisons small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m. This applies especially on steep grassy slopes.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

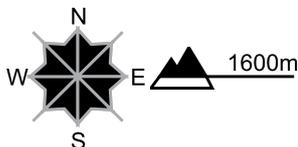
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular 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. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and barely recognisable. Careful route selection is important.

Full-depth avalanches

In particular on steep grassy slopes small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

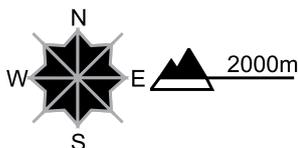
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular 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 and the danger is greater. Valais, central Grisons and Engadine: In addition avalanches can in isolated cases be released in deep layers and reach medium size. Careful route selection is important.

Full-depth avalanches

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 11.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The layers of fresh and drifted snow that formed last week, some of which are deep, have settled and bonded. On Monday, the southerly wind gave rise to fresh snow drift accumulations. These are lying on a loosely bonded old snow surface and are prone to triggering.

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. Here, isolated avalanches can be released in the old snowpack, in particular on little used steep slopes. In the other regions, fractures are unlikely to occur in the near-ground layers of the snowpack.

The gliding movement of the snow has accelerated in recent days and the prevalence of full-depth avalanches has increased in all aspects.

Observed weather on Monday, 11.2.2013

Monday was mostly very cloudy, and some snow fell in the west and south in particular. In the west the snowfall level was approximately 800 m, and in the south snow fell even in the valley bottoms.

Fresh snow

- Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps: 5 to 15 cm
- Elsewhere: a few centimetres in some localities

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -6 °C in the north and -11 °C in the south

Wind

Light to moderate from the south, but strong at times in the areas exposed to the foehn and in the central part of the main Alpine ridge

Weather forecast until Tuesday, 12.2.2013

The weather will be mostly cloudy and snow will fall over a wide area, even at low altitudes. In the afternoon it will become brighter in the south.

Fresh snow

From Monday evening until Tuesday evening, 5 to 15 cm of snow will fall over a wide area; up to 20 cm will fall in most places in western Lower Valais and the western part of the northern flank of the Alps.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -9 °C

Wind

Light to moderate from the north

Outlook until Thursday, 14.2.2013

On each of the next two days it will be quite sunny over a wide area. In the Prealps and the east, Wednesday will be cloudy with bright intervals and light showers, and Thursday will be sunny at times. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. The danger of full-depth avalanches will not change significantly.