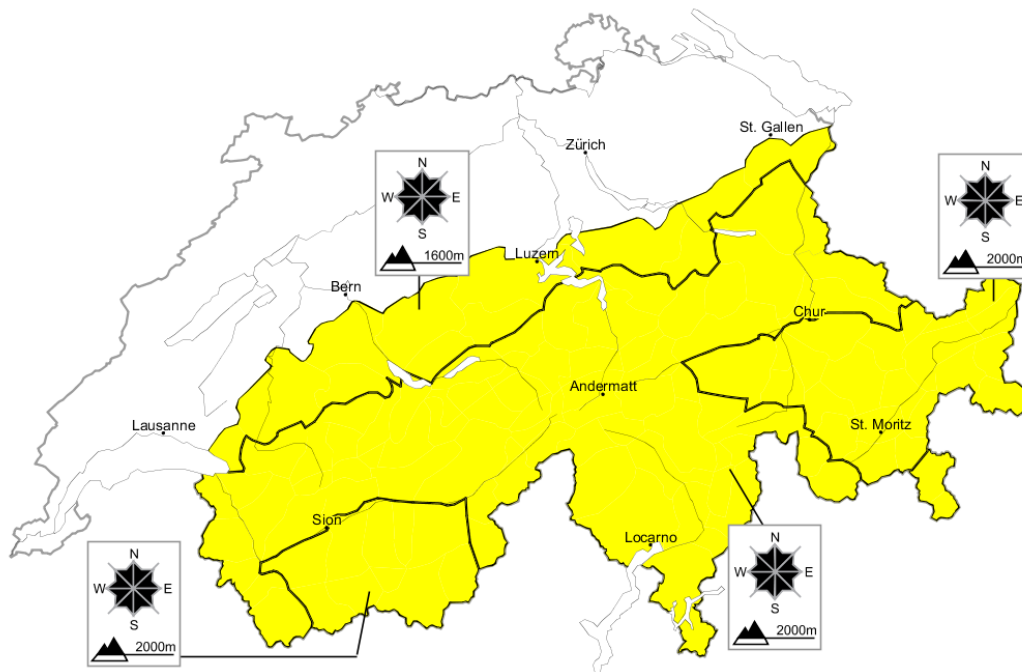


Moderate avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 15.2.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 15.2.2013, 17:00

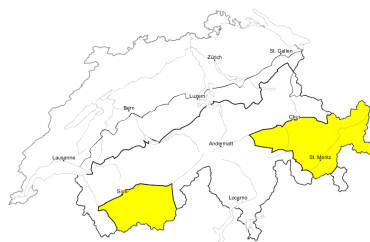
Avalanche danger

updated on 15.2.2013, 08:00



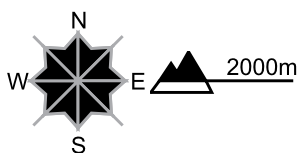
Region A

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The older snow drift accumulations can in some places be released by people. The more recent snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular in high Alpine regions. Here avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is greater. Weak layers deep in the old snowpack can be released by a single winter sport participant in some places especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Also slopes close to the tree line are especially unfavourable. Avalanches can reach medium size. Careful route selection is important.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

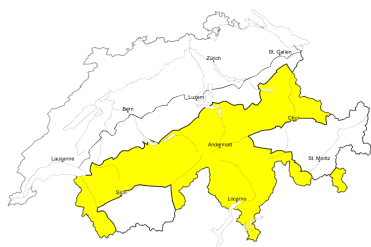
5 very high



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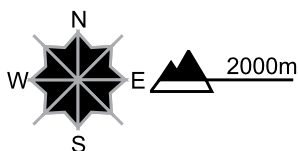
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

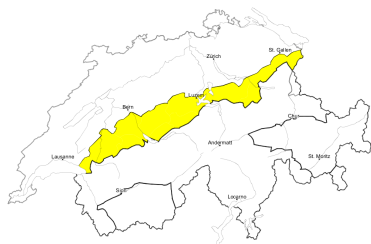
Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise, especially on the northern flank of the Alps. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is greater. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

In particular in Lower Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in Prättigau small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. This applies especially on steep grassy slopes.

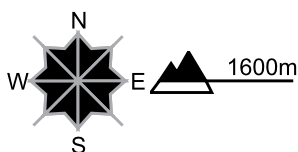
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers by people. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and barely recognisable. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

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



Snowpack and weather

updated on 14.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

In all regions of Switzerland the snowdrift accumulations of recent days, which are to some extent prone to triggering, have been deposited in areas adjacent to ridgelines and pass areas, gullies and bowls in particular. In the North they will be blanketed over by new fallen snow, making them nearly impossible to recognize.

In the inneralpine regions of the Valais, in central Grisons, in the Engadine and in Val Müstair, 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 and in borderline areas near the treeline, 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.

Gliding snow masses have been observed over the last few days particularly in Lower Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons in all aspects below about 2200 to 2400 m. In isolated cases, full depth snowslides have also released.

Observed weather on Thursday, 14.2.2013

In the morning hours it was sunny in the mountains, then high altitude cloud moved in from the west.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -5°C in northern and western regions and -3°C in southern and eastern regions

Wind

The northerly winds slackened off on Wednesday night. During the day on Thursday they were blowing predominantly at light velocity and shifted to southwesterly.

Weather forecast until Friday, 15.2.2013

On Thursday evening snowfall is expected to set in from the west. On Friday in northern regions skies will be heavily overcast in general accompanied by light snowfall down to low altitudes. In the afternoon bright intervals are anticipated from the west. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be partly sunny and mostly dry.

Fresh snow

By Friday evening:

- northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais, northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm
- further to the south, less; on the southern flank of the Alps it will be dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions approximately -7°C and in southern regions -5°C

Wind

Light to moderate velocity northwesterly winds

Outlook until Sunday, 17.2.2013

On Saturday in northern regions it is expected to be quite sunny, in southern regions predominantly so. On Sunday it will be mostly sunny and temperatures will rise somewhat in the mountains. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.