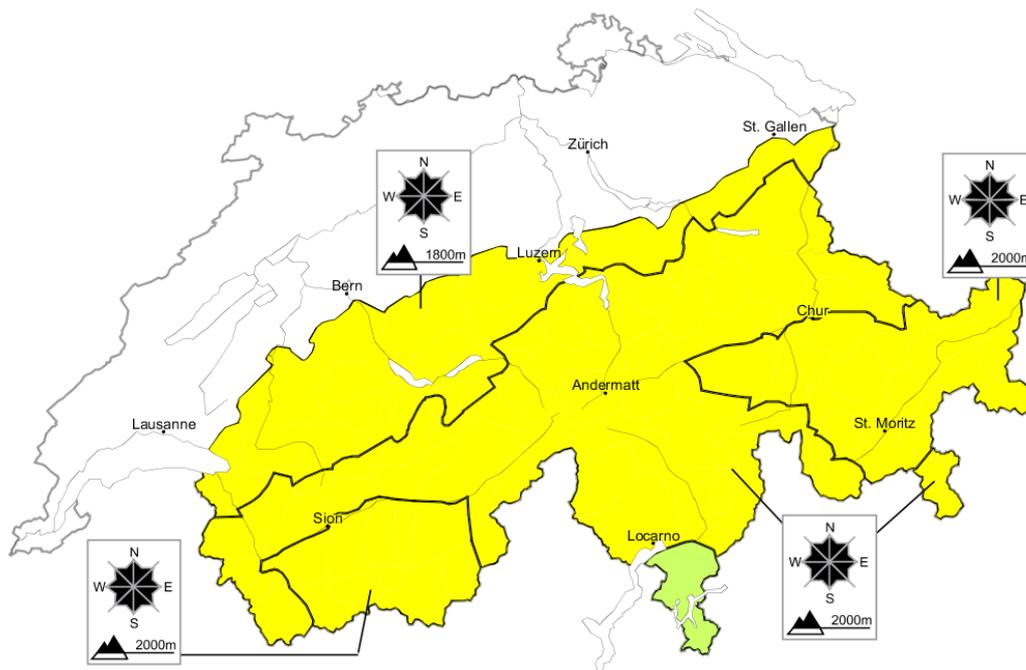


Moderate avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 16.2.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 16.2.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 16.2.2013, 08:00



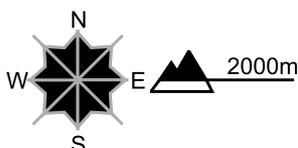
Region A

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers by people. Northern Alpine ridge: The mostly small snow drift accumulations of Friday must be evaluated with care and prudence. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Mostly avalanches are only small but in many cases easily released. In some localities sometimes large snow drift accumulations have formed. Here the danger is higher. Careful route selection is recommended.

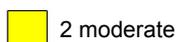
Full-depth avalanches

In particular in 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. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

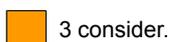
Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

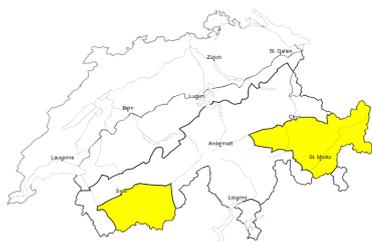


5 very high



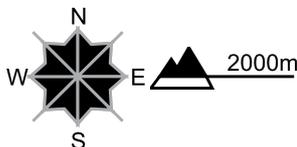
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of Friday must be evaluated with care and prudence. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Mostly avalanches are only small but in many cases easily released. In northern Grisons avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is slightly 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.

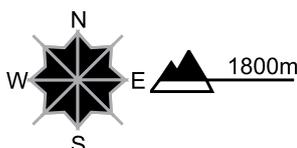
Region C

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. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Region D

Level 1, low



Favourable situation

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 15.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

In all regions of Switzerland, avalanches can from place to place be triggered in the layers of the snowpack nearest to the uppermost surface. Freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations have been deposited to some extent on top of surface hoar or atop soft, weak layers of snow. The older snowdrift masses on the northern flank of the Alps have now been blanketed over with new fallen snow and are no longer discernible.

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. In those regions, 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 Friday, 15.2.2013

On Friday skies were overcast. Particularly on the southern flank of the Alps there were bright spells in the afternoon.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday afternoon:

- northern flank of the Alps and western Lower Valais: 5 to 15 cm; in western regions, up to 25 cm from place to place
- further to the south, less than 5 cm of snowfall; on the southern flank of the Alps it remained dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6°C in northern regions and -3°C in southern regions

Wind

Light to moderate northwesterly winds

Weather forecast until Saturday, 16.2.2013

On the southern flank of the Alps and in the Engadine, it will be predominantly sunny on Saturday. In the remaining regions above 2000 to 2500 m and in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons in particular, skies are expected to brighten up over the course of the day.

Fresh snow

In eastern regions, just a few centimeters

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -7°C

Wind

Light northerly winds

Outlook until Monday, 18.2.2013

On both days it is expected to be predominantly sunny in the mountains. For the most part, light to moderate velocity northerly winds will prevail. The avalanche danger will slowly decrease.