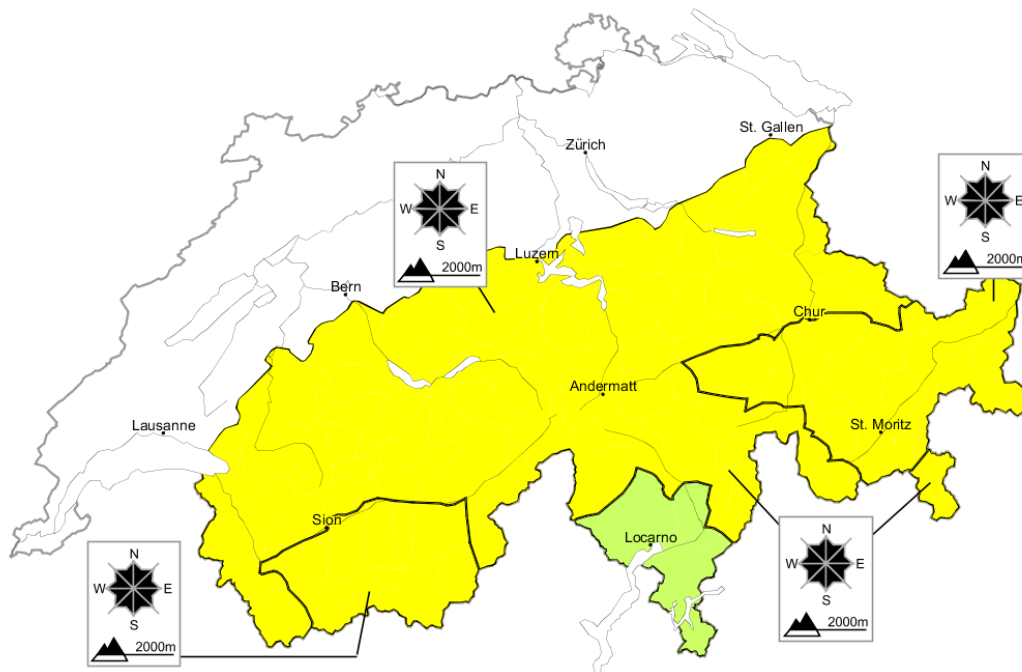
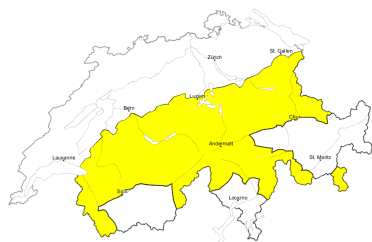
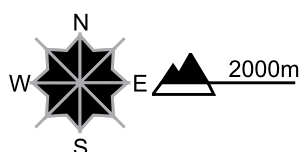


Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 16.2.2013, 17:00 / Next update: 17.2.2013, 08:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 16.2.2013, 17:00

**Region A****Level 2, moderate****Snow drifts, old snow****Avalanche prone locations****Danger description**

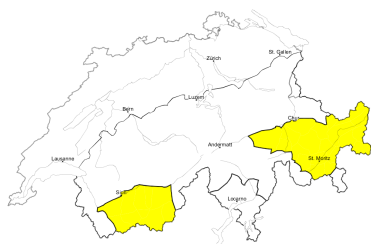
The near-surface layers of the snowpack represent the main danger. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls in all aspects. Avalanches can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. Small natural avalanches are possible as a consequence of solar radiation. 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.

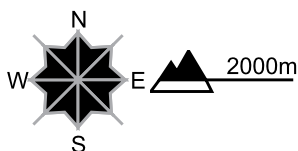
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The near-surface layers of the snowpack can be released by a single winter sport participant in some places. In addition avalanches can in isolated cases be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size, especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Also slopes close to the tree line are especially unfavourable. Small natural avalanches are possible as a consequence of solar radiation. Careful route selection is important.

Region C

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 16.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The layers of the snowpack nearest to the uppermost surface are still prone to triggering in places. They have formed to some extent on top of buried surface hoar or soft, weak snow layers.

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 closest 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 Saturday, 16.2.2013

In northern regions there was a bit of snowfall last night. In southern and western regions it was quite sunny during the day today. In northeastern regions skies remained heavily overcast in general.

Fresh snow

On the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, just a few centimeters, elsewhere it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in western regions -7°C, in eastern regions -9°C, in southern regions -4°C

Wind

Light to moderate velocity northerly winds, during the day winds were predominantly light.

Weather forecast until Sunday, 17.2.2013

In northern regions, high fog prevails, elsewhere it is sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -7°C

Wind

Light northeasterly winds

Outlook until Tuesday, 19.2.2013

It will be predominantly sunny and dry, accompanied by light winds. The avalanche danger will slowly recede.