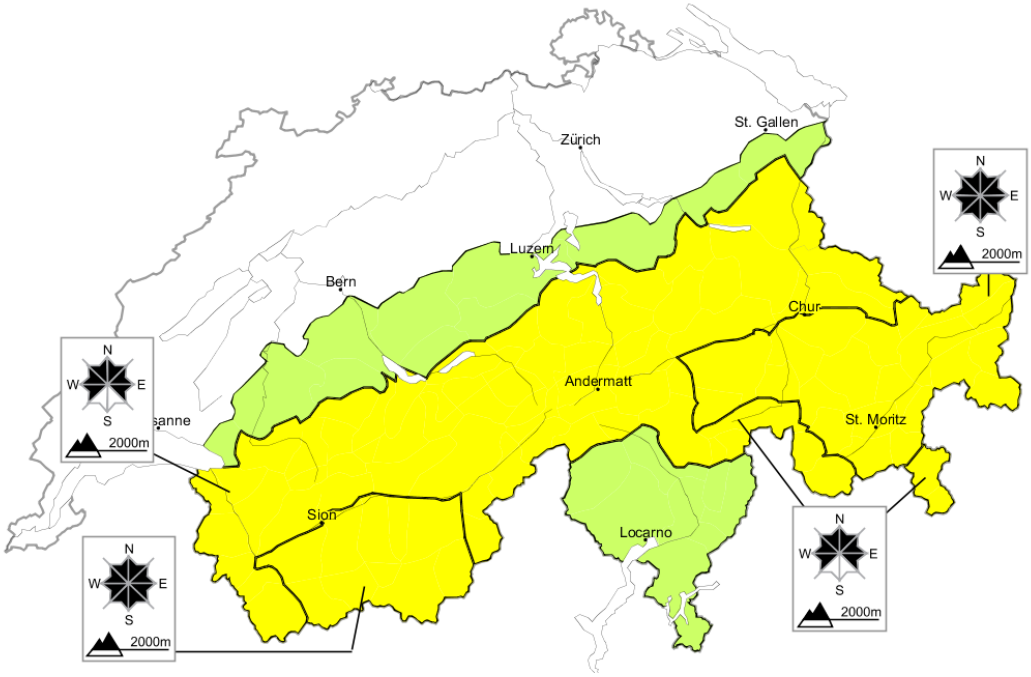
Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

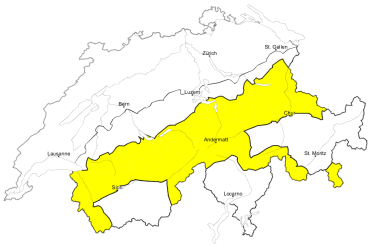
Edition: 18.2.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 18.2.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 18.2.2013, 08:00

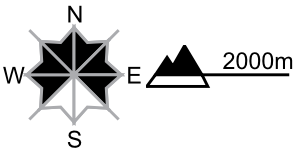


Region A — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The near-surface layers of the snowpack represent the main danger. In some localities small snow drift accumulations have formed. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Small natural avalanches are possible as a consequence of solar radiation, especially on very steep south facing slopes. 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 very steep south facing slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

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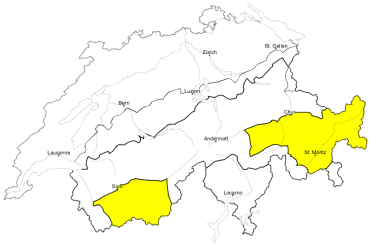
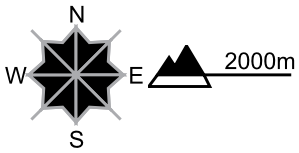
Region B — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in deep layers, especially in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Also slopes close to the tree line are especially unfavourable. They can in isolated cases reach medium size. Small natural avalanches are possible as a consequence of solar radiation, especially on very steep south facing slopes. 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.

Region D — Level 1, low

Favourable situation

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised in view of the danger of being buried, but in particular because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Full-depth avalanches

In particular on very steep south facing slopes individual small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The layers of the snowpack nearest to the uppermost surface are still prone to triggering in places. 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, 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.
In the western and central sectors of the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else, as well as in Lower Valais, the frequency of full depth snowslides on south facing slopes below about 2200 to 2400 m has increased somewhat. In isolated cases, small to medium sized avalanches have released.

Observed weather on Sunday, 17.2.2013

In western regions it was sunny. In eastern regions it was intermittently, in southern regions predominantly overcast.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -7°C

Wind
Light northeasterly winds

Weather forecast until Monday, 18.2.2013

It the mountains it will be sunny.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -6°C

Wind
Light velocity, in high alpine regions intermittently moderate velocity easterly winds

Outlook until Wednesday, 20.2.2013

On Tuesday, cloud will move in from the north. On Wednesday in northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by light snowfall. In southern regions and in the Valais, it will be quite sunny. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.