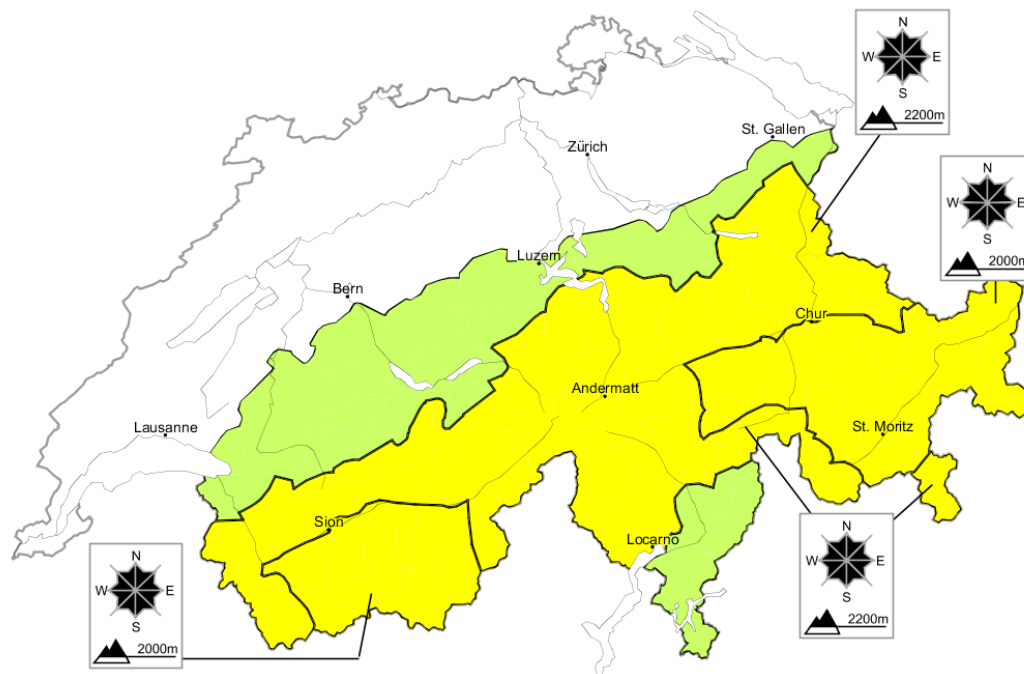
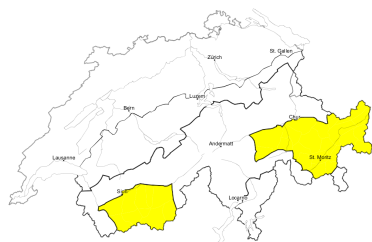
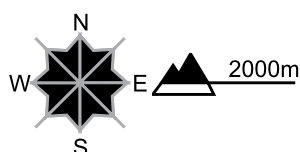


Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 19.2.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 19.2.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

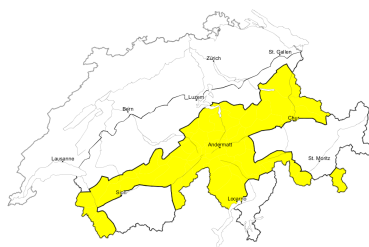
updated on 19.2.2013, 08:00

**Region A****Level 2, moderate****Snow drifts, 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. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. As the day progresses mostly small snow drift accumulations will form, in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in high Alpine regions. Small natural avalanches are possible as a consequence of solar radiation, especially on very steep south facing slopes. Careful route selection is important.

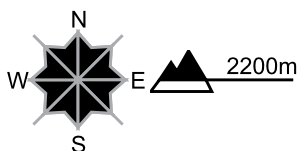
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

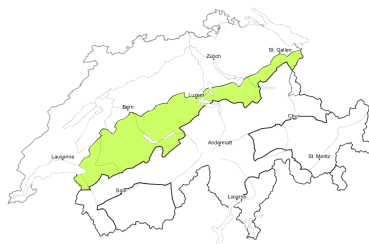
The near-surface layers of the snowpack represent the main danger. As the day progresses snow drift accumulations will form, especially adjacent to the ridge line as well as in high Alpine regions. These are mostly small but can be released easily. Small natural avalanches are possible as a consequence of solar radiation, especially on very steep south facing slopes. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

Northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, Lower Valais as well as Prättigau: In particular on very steep south facing slopes small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Region C

Level 1, low



Snow drifts

In the late morning a favourable avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area. 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. In the afternoon small snow drift accumulations will form. In the regions where the wind is stronger danger level 2 (moderate) may be reached.

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.

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 18.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

During the day, mostly small snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering will form, especially at high altitudes and in the high Alpine regions. In particular in the inneralpine regions of Valais, and in central Grisons, Engadine and Val Müstair, middle and deep layers of the snowpack are faceted and weak in some cases. Here, avalanches can be released in deep layers of the snowpack. These conditions are to be found, in particular, on little used steep, rocky slopes with shallow snow cover, and in areas close to the tree line. In the other regions, fractures are unlikely to occur in the near-ground layers of the snowpack.

On south facing slopes, a brittle melt-freeze crust has formed on the surface of the snowpack. Elsewhere, the snow surface is powdery. Surface hoar has formed over a wide area.

In particular in the western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in Lower Valais, isolated small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches have been released below approximately 2200 to 2400 m.

Observed weather on Monday, 18.2.2013

In the south, the night was overcast. During the day the weather was sunny everywhere.

Fresh snow

Western Ticino and Simplon region: 5 to 10 cm, but up to 20 cm in some localities, dry elsewhere

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: -7 °C

Wind

Mostly light from the east

Weather forecast until Tuesday, 19.2.2013

After a clear night, cloud will build up from the northeast during the day.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: -4 °C in the west and south, and -6 °C in the east

Wind

Northerly, light to moderate, but strong at times in the high Alpine regions in the afternoon

Outlook until Thursday, 21.2.2013

Wednesday will be mostly very cloudy in the north. A little snow will fall. In Valais and the south it will be sunny at times. On Thursday, variable to dense cloud cover will prevail. A little snow will fall in the south and east. As a consequence of the northerly wind, the weather will remain cold. The avalanche danger will change very little.