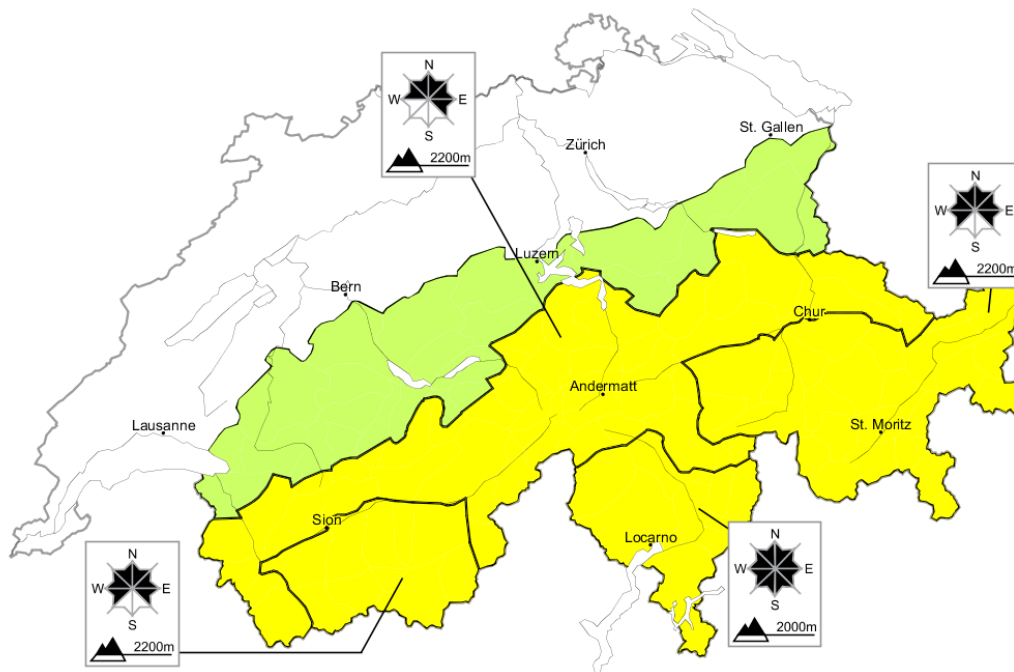


A generally favourable avalanche situation will prevail

Edition: 22.2.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 22.2.2013, 17:00

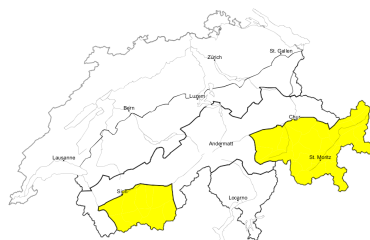
Avalanche danger

updated on 22.2.2013, 08:00



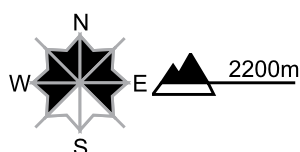
Region A

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in deep layers. Caution is to be exercised in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered slopes. The snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular at high altitudes and in high Alpine regions. Careful route selection is important.

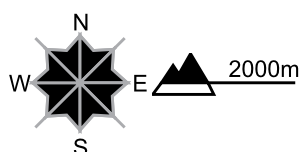
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow represents the main danger. In particular on very steep slopes mostly small avalanches are possible. 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.

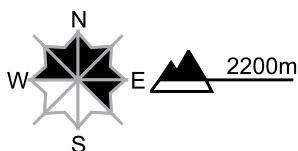
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

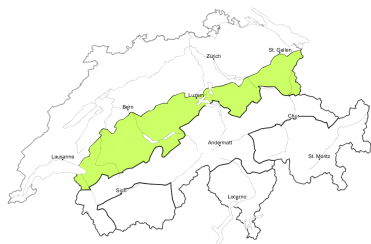
Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in near-surface layers. The somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in west to north to southeast facing aspects and adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. At elevated altitudes the avalanche prone locations increase. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

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

Region D

Level 1, low



Favourable situation

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. At high altitude small snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence. 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 sunny slopes small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized full-depth avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The new fallen snow on the southern flank of the Alps has been deposited on top of a hardened old snow cover widespread and is prone to triggering in some 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 or in places where the snow is shallow, avalanches can fracture in the old snow cover in isolated cases. In the remaining regions, the snowpack is favourably structured by and large. Avalanches can be triggered in the layers of snow nearest to the uppermost surface in particular.

On south facing slopes there is a melt-freeze crust on the uppermost snowpack surface. Elsewhere the surface is frequently powdery.

On the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Valais, in the Lower Valais and in northern Grisons in particular, isolated small to medium sized full depth snowslides have triggered below about 2400 m.

Observed weather on Thursday, 21.2.2013

Apart from bright intervals in the Valais and Grisons, skies were heavily overcast in general. In Ticino in particular, there was snowfall down to low altitudes.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening, the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:

- central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri: 10 to 20 cm, from place to place as much as 30 cm
- remaining parts of southern flank of the Alps, Simplon region: 5 to 10 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -10°C

Wind

Predominantly light winds

Weather forecast until Friday, 22.2.2013

Skies will be heavily overcast in general. There will be intermittent light snowfall. In the Valais in particular, bright spells are anticipated.

Fresh snow

On the southern flank of the Alps and in eastern regions, a few centimeters of snowfall is expected.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -11°C

Wind

Light winds

Outlook until Sunday, 24.2.2013

On Saturday skies will be variably cloudy and it will remain predominantly dry. On Sunday skies will be heavily overcast in general, accompanied by snowfall in southern and eastern regions in particular. It will remain cold. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.