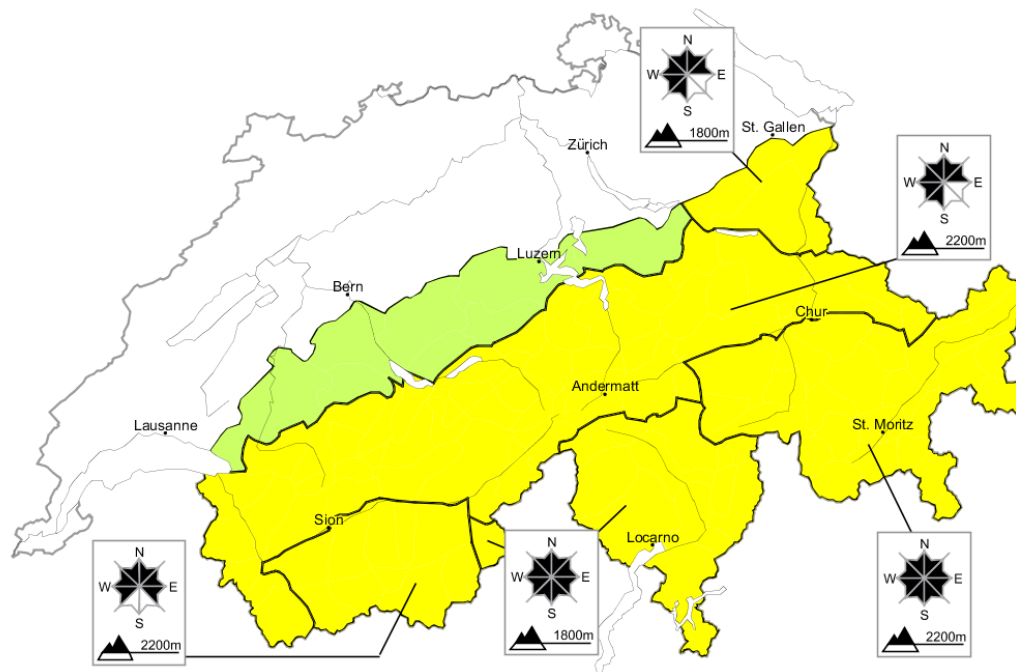


The fresh snow drift accumulations are can be released easily

Edition: 24.2.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 24.2.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 24.2.2013, 08:00



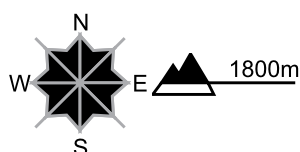
Region A

Level 2, moderate



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow of the last few days is in some cases still prone to triggering. As a consequence of the northerly wind snow drift accumulations have formed, in particular on south facing slopes. These are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. 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.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



WSL Institute for Snow and
 Avalanche Research SLF
www.slf.ch

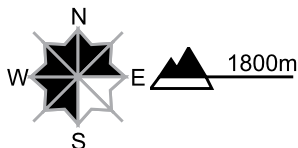
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes moderate wind mostly small snow drift accumulations have formed. These are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. 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 individual full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

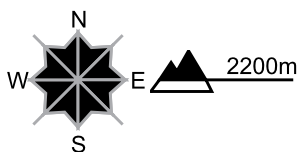
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

At elevated altitudes snow drift accumulations have formed. These are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. 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.

Old snow

Avalanches can in very isolated cases be released in deep layers and reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. Careful route selection is advisable.



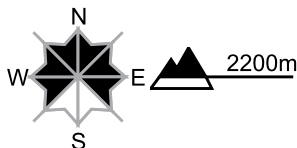
Region D

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

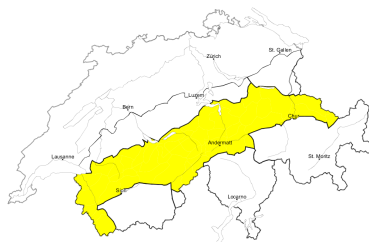
Avalanches can in very isolated cases be released in deep layers and reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered slopes. Careful route selection is advisable.

Snow drifts

At elevated altitudes snow drift accumulations have formed. These are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. 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.

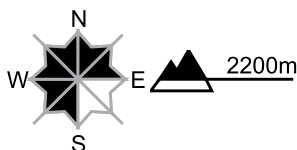
Region E

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes moderate wind mostly small snow drift accumulations have formed. These are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. At elevated altitudes the avalanche prone locations increase. 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 individual full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Region F

Level 1, low



Snow drifts

Wind lighter than expected: The fresh snow drift accumulations are only small. They are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. 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 individual full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 23.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

New fallen snow and loosely packed old snow are being transported by winds of medium velocity, particularly at high altitudes. In Ticino and the western Prealps, the wind impact is being felt down to intermediate altitudes. Fresh fallen and drifted snow masses are being deposited widespread atop a very loosely packed old snow cover surface or atop surface hoar. The amounts are not great, but the proneness to triggering is high.

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 in isolated cases fracture in the old snow cover and reach medium size. In the remaining regions, the snowpack is favourably structured and avalanches can be triggered in the layers of snow nearest to the uppermost surface in particular.

In northern regions in particular, isolated full depth snowslides continue to be possible below about 2400 m.

Observed weather on Saturday, 23.2.2013

On the northern flank of the Alps in particular there was cloud resembling high fog below 2000 m and from place to place some snowfall. Above that altitude as well as in the Valais and in Grisons it was predominantly sunny until cloud moved in from the south during the afternoon. In southern regions there was a small amount of snowfall last night, during the day today skies were variably cloudy.

Fresh snow

Since Wednesday evening the following amounts of new fallen snow have been registered:

- southern Simplon region, Ticino, Moesano: widespread 20 to 30 cm
- remaining regions: widespread as much as 10 cm. Below about 2000 m there was as much as 30 cm of snowfall from place to place from the low cloud, heaviest in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions -12°C and in southern regions -9°C

Wind

Light to moderate southerly to easterly winds

Weather forecast until Sunday, 24.2.2013

Skies were heavily overcast accompanied by light snowfall down to low lying areas.

Fresh snow

- central and eastern sectors of northern flank of the Alps as well as Grisons: 5 to 10 cm; in the Engadine and southern valleys of Grisons as much as 15 cm
- remaining regions: just a few centimeters

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions -15°C and in southern regions -10°C

Wind

- in the western Prealps, moderate bise winds to start with, in the afternoon slackening off to light velocity
- in Ticino predominantly moderate strength northerly winds
- in the remaining regions, light easterly winds, moderate velocity at high altitudes

Outlook until Tuesday, 26.2.2013

On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, a small amount of additional snowfall down to low altitudes is anticipated by Tuesday evening, most of it falling from Monte Rosa into the Simplon region. Elsewhere it is expected to be quite sunny on both days, despite cloudbanks passing through intermittently. Temperatures will gradually rise. In northern regions the avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly. In southern regions, and in particular from Monte Rosa into the Simplon region, the danger level will increase slightly.