Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 25 February 2013

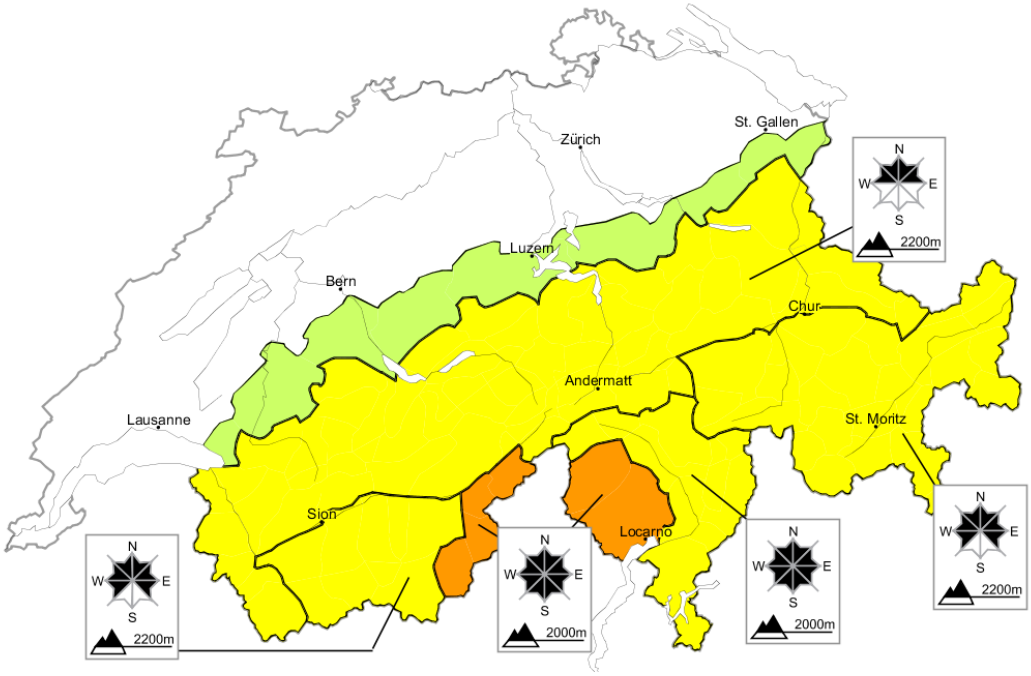
25.2.2013, 07:58

From Saas Fee via Binntal to the Valle Maggia a considerable avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 25.2.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 25.2.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

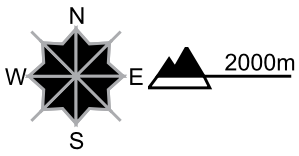
updated on 25.2.2013, 08:00



Region A — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



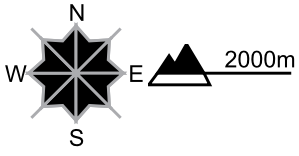
Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. Natural avalanches are possible, in particular in Valais. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Region B — Level 2, moderate

Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations 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. 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

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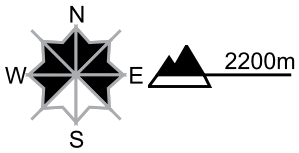
Region C — Level 2, moderate

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.

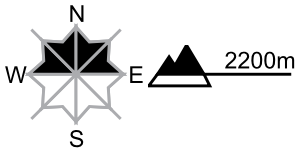
Snow drifts

The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released easily, but they will be small in most cases. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and exist in all aspects. 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 D — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released easily, but they will be small in most cases. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and exist in all aspects. 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. Over a wide area over a wide area 5 to 10 cm of snow, and up to 40 cm in some localities, has fallen in the last two days. Here the danger is higher.

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 E — Level 1, low

Snow drifts

The fresh snow drift accumulations are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. They are only small. 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 24.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

Winds which reached moderate velocity in some places have transported both new fallen and loosely packed old snow. The snowdrift has been deposited atop a very loose, light old snowpack surface or atop surface hoar far and wide. 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 by and large.
Isolated full depth snowslides continue to be released daily below about 2400 m.

Observed weather on Sunday, 24.2.2013

Skies were overcast, accompanied by extensive bright intervals in northeasterly regions and in the Lower Valais more than anywhere else. Amidst icy cold temperatures there was a small amount of snowfall down to low altitudes.

Fresh snow
- southern Simplon region, Sotto Ceneri and Upper Engadine: about 10 cm; from place to place in the Upper Engadine as much as 20 cm
- remaining regions: just a few centimeters widespread, in certain specific spots significantly more

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions -14°C, in southern regions -10°C

Wind
- light to moderate southerly to easterly winds
- in the central and eastern sectors of the Main Alpine Ridge, moderate northerly winds during the night

Weather forecast until Monday, 25.2.2013

On the northern flank of the Alps there will be high fog extending up to approximately 2000 m, out of which a small amount of snowfall is possible. Above that altitude, as well as in the Valais and in northern and central Grisons, skies will be intermittently sunny, accompanied by cloudbanks passing through. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards thereof, skies will be overcast and snowfall down to low altitudes is anticipated.

Fresh snow
By Monday evening, the following amounts of new fallen snow are expected:
- Monte Rosa to the southern Simplon region: 10 to 20 cm
- remaining Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom: maximum 10 cm

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -9°C and rising

Wind
Predominantly light southeasterly winds

Outlook until Wednesday, 27.2.2013

In southern regions an additional amount of snowfall is anticipated by Tuesday morning. Elsewhere it will be quite sunny on both days, in spite of cloudbanks passing through. Temperatures will gradually rise. The danger of dry avalanches will recede in increments.