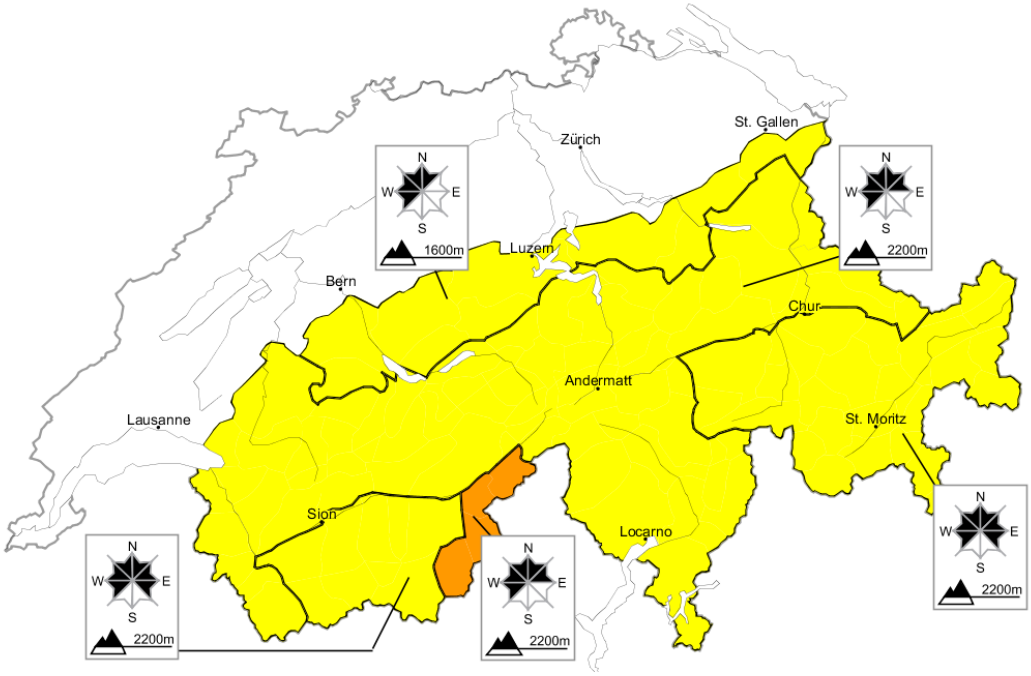
From Saas Fee via the Simplon region to Binntal a considerable avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 28.2.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 28.2.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

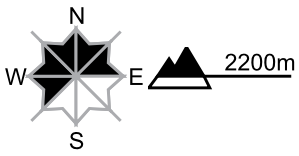
updated on 28.2.2013, 08:00



Region A — Level 3, considerable

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days are bonding only slowly with the old snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Danger levels 1 low | 2 moderate | 3 consider. | 4 high | 5 very high

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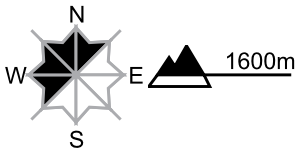
Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 28 February 2013

28.2.2013, 07:54

Region B — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



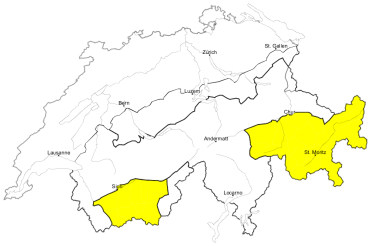
Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. 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

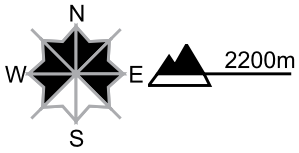
In particular on very steep sunny slopes full-depth avalanches are to be expected. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Region C — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Faceted weak layers exist in the snowpack. 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 avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Careful route selection is advisable.

Snow drifts

The fresh snow drift accumulations can in some cases 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, especially on west, north and east facing slopes. 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.

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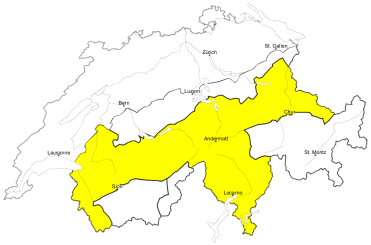
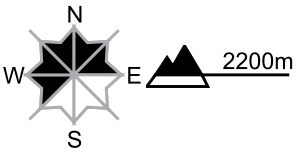
Region D — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. They are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. The snow drift accumulations 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.

Full-depth avalanches

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

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 27.2.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

Freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations are to some extent inadequately bonded with the snow cover surface beneath them. Particularly in areas adjacent to ridgelines, in gullies and bowls, and behind terrain edges, they can be easily triggered.
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.
On the northern flank of the Alps, in the Lower Valais and in northern Grisons, beneath approximately 2400 m on steep and smooth sunny slopes, the snowpack is capable of gliding. Full depth snowslides have become possible to an increasing degree.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 27.2.2013

It was predominantly sunny above the high fog in northern regions. In southern regions skies were variably cloudy.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions -2°C, in southern regions -5°C

Wind
Southeasterly winds
- on the northern Alpine Ridge from les Diablerets to the Titlis, in the central sector of the Prealps, in the Alpstein and Monte Rosa region as well as in the Engadine: moderate strength, in isolated cases strong velocity winds
- remaining regions: light winds

Weather forecast until Thursday, 28.2.2013

In northern regions there will be low stratus cloud. Above it and in the remaining regions it will be predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions -2°C, in southern regions -5°C

Wind
Light easterly winds

Outlook until Saturday, 2.3.2013

It will be predominantly sunny, with the zero degree level at 2000 m. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to slowly diminish. The danger of full depth snowslides will increase somewhat.