Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 2 March 2013

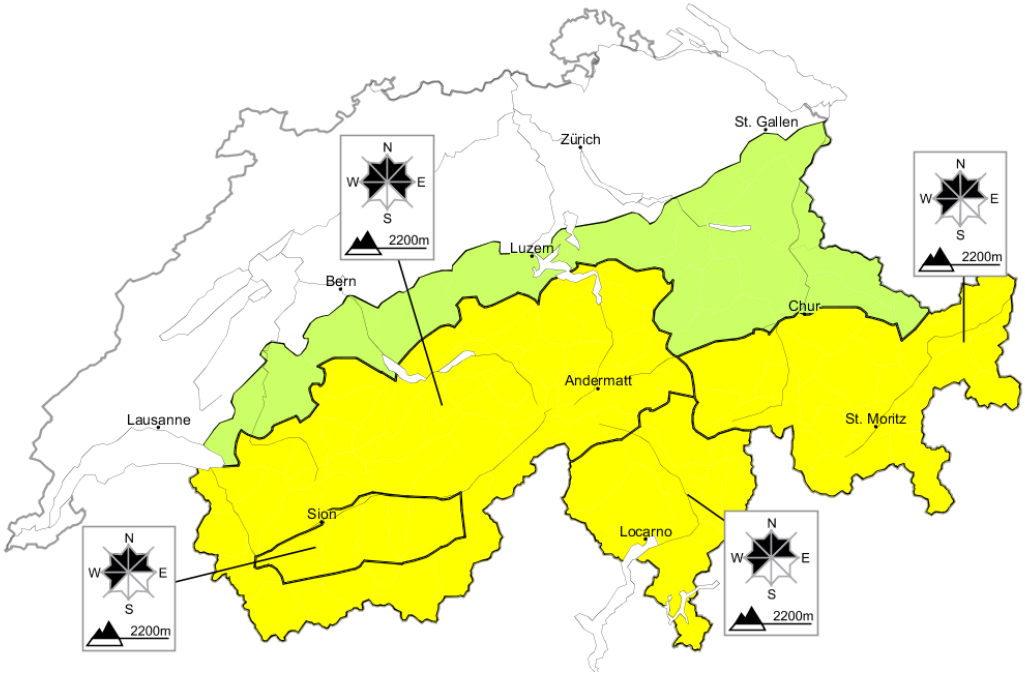
2.3.2013, 07:51

Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Increase in avalanche danger as the day progresses

Edition: 2.3.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 2.3.2013, 17:00

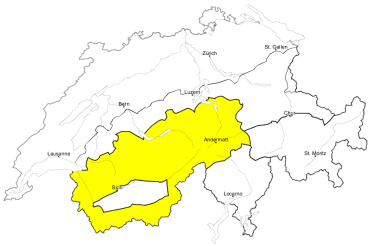
Dry avalanches

updated on 2.3.2013, 08:00



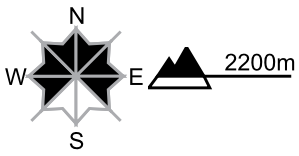
Dry, Region A

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days represent the main danger. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Avalanches can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is greater. 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. Saas Fee, the Simplon region and Binntal: Avalanches can be released in deep layers of the snowpack and reach medium size in isolated cases.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

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

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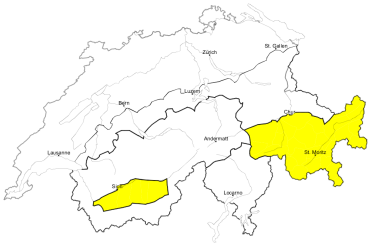
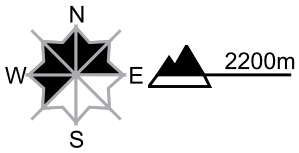
Dry, Region B — Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

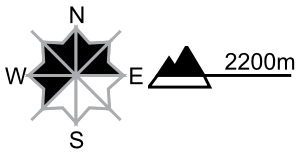
Faceted weak layers exist in the snowpack. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in deep layers. Caution is to be exercised in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered slopes. The avalanche prone locations are rare but barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Careful route selection is advisable. The inneralpine regions of Valais and Engadine: The older snow drift accumulations can still be released in some cases. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, Region C — Level 2, moderate

Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

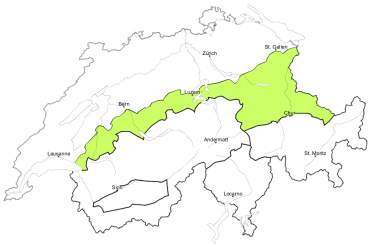


Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers, in particular by large additional loads. The avalanche prone locations are to be found especially adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Very steep shady slopes are to be traversed by snow sport participants one at a time.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, Region D — Level 1, low



Snow drifts

The older snow drift accumulations can be released in isolated cases. They are to be found especially adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. In some localities small snow drift accumulations have formed. 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.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

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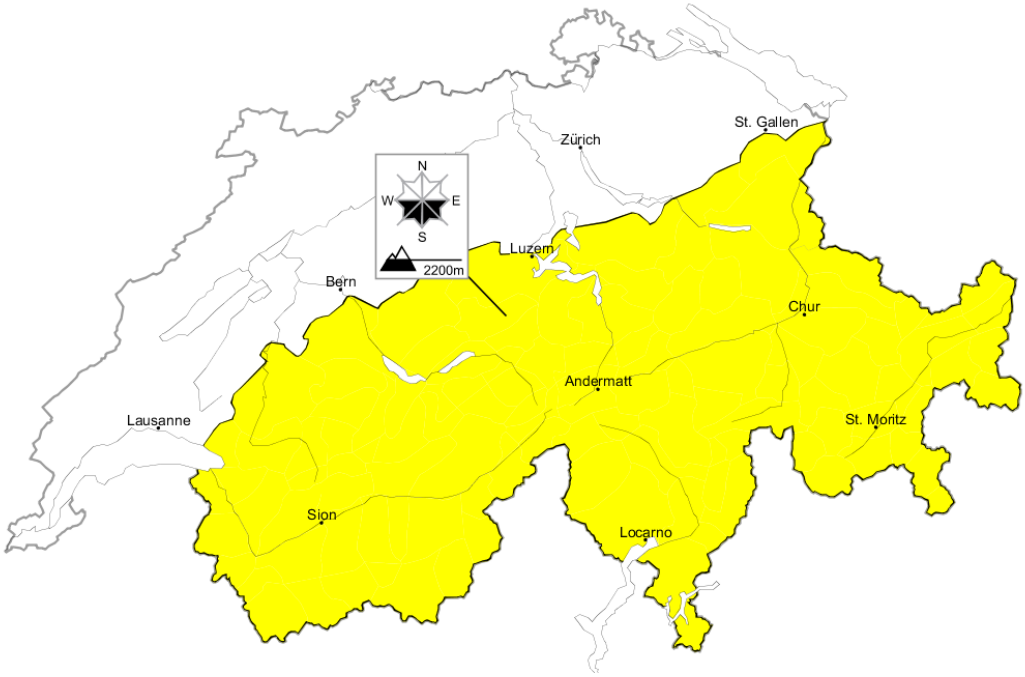
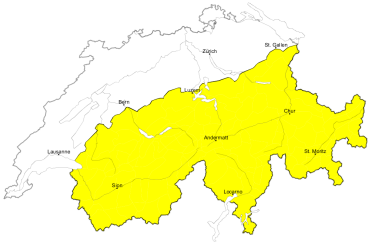
Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 2.3.2013, 08:00

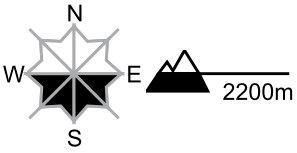


Wet — Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches as day progresses

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As the day progresses more frequent full-depth and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2200 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 1.3.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

In the northern sector of the Alpine Ridge from Chablais to the Tödi, as well as along the Valais sector of the Main Alpine Ridge, the snowdrift accumulations of the last few days are to some extent inadequately bonded to the old snowpack surface beneath them.
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. In the remaining regions, the snowpack is favourably structured by and large.
Particularly northwards of a line drawn between Rhine and Rhone and in Prättigau more than anywhere else, the snowpack below approximately 2200 m especially on steep, smooth slopes is capable of sliding. Full depth snowslide activity has intensified.
Very steep south facing slopes below about 2200 m are thoroughly wet. Following clear nights in those areas, the snowpack surface up to nearly 2600 m is capable of bearing loads. On shady slopes, the snowpack continues to be powdery and loosely packed.

Observed weather on Friday, 1.3.2013

In northern regions there was low stratus cloud up to about 1300 m. Above that altitude and in the remaining regions it was sunny.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -1°C

Wind
- northern sector of Alpine Ridge from Chablais to the Tödi: moderate strength, in isolated places strong velocity southeasterly winds
- remaining regions: light southerly winds, at moderate strength in isolated cases in westernmost Lower Valais

Weather forecast until Saturday, 2.3.2013

In northern regions there will be high fog. Above it and in the remaining regions it will be sunny.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions +1°C, in southern regions -2°C

Wind
In the Prealps, light to moderate bise winds; in the remaining regions light easterly winds

Outlook until Monday, 4.3.2013

It will continue to be sunny. On Monday afternoon in southern regions, an increasing amount of cloud will move in. Temperatures will rise somewhat further. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to diminish. The danger of full depth snowslides and wet snow avalanches will continue to increase gradually.