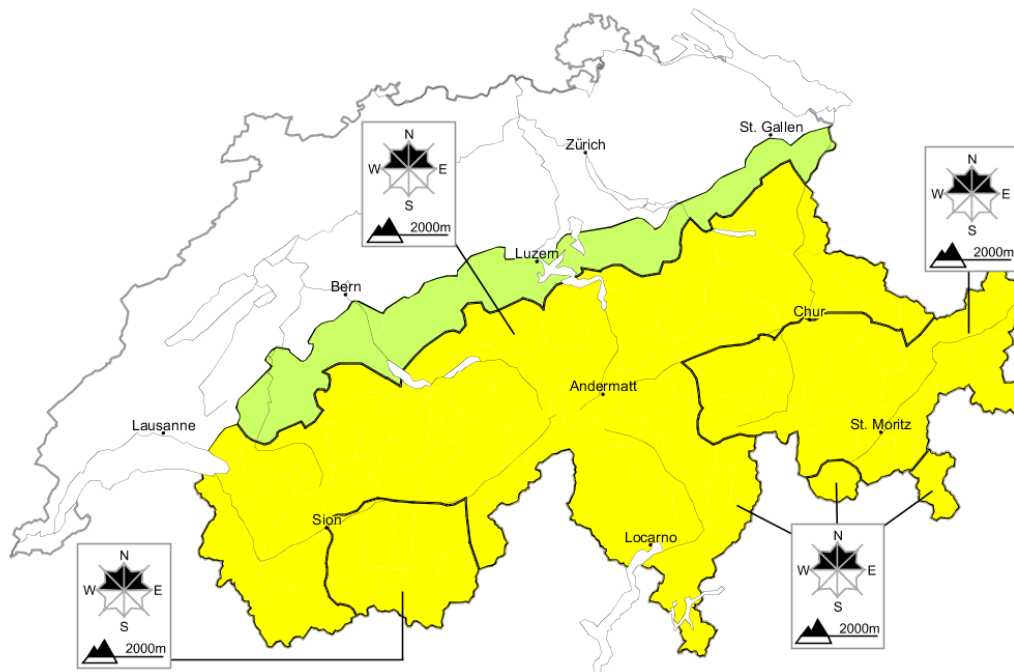


Fresh snow drifts require caution

Edition: 6.3.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 6.3.2013, 17:00

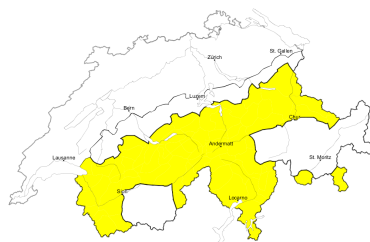
Avalanche danger

updated on 6.3.2013, 08:00



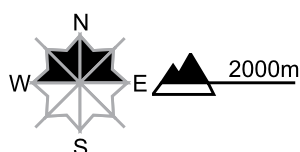
Region A

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind snow drift accumulations will form. These are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. In the regions exposed to the foehn wind the snow drift accumulations are larger. Here the danger is higher. The clearly visible snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed as far as possible.

Full-depth avalanches

Northern flank of the Alps, Valais, northern and central Grisons: As the day progresses individual full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. This applies in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

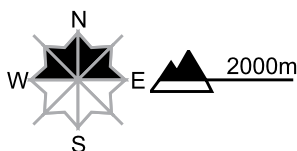
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind snow drift accumulations will form. These are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Avalanches can release deeper layers of the snowpack. Careful route selection is advisable. The clearly visible snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed as far as possible.

Full-depth avalanches

Valais, northern and central Grisons: As the day progresses individual full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. This applies in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Region C

Level 1, low



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in near-surface layers. The avalanche prone locations are to be found especially adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly very small but in some cases prone to triggering. 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

As the day progresses individual full-depth avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 5.3.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The strong to storm force southerly wind has given rise to snow drift accumulations. They are to be found on steep north facing slopes, in some cases on a loosely bonded old snowpack, where they can be released easily. The bonding of the snowpack is mostly favourable elsewhere, except in the inneralpine regions of Valais, and in central Grisons, Engadine and Val Müstair. Here, middle and deep layers of the snowpack are faceted and weak in some cases. In these regions, avalanches released on the surface of the snowpack can penetrate deep layers.

Full-depth and wet avalanches are being released on steep, smooth sunny slopes below approximately 2400 m, in particular on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais and northern and central Grisons. Very steep south facing slopes are moist all the way through below approximately 2600 m. When the night skies are clear, a mostly strong crust will form.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 5.3.2013

After a largely clear night, cloud built up quickly from the southwest in the morning. In the afternoon, it was mostly very cloudy with bright intervals.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between +3 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south

Wind

The wind was southerly:

- Strong to storm force on the northern Alpine ridge
- Moderate to strong over a wide area elsewhere

Weather forecast until Wednesday, 6.3.2013

Tuesday night will be only partly clear in the north and cloudy in the south. During the day, it will be very cloudy on the southern flank of the Alps and sunny at times in the north.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level will be between 1000 and 1400 m, and the following amounts of snow will fall:

- Southern flank of the Alps: 10 to 20 cm
- The other regions will be largely dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between +3 °C in the north and -3 °C in the south

Wind

Strong to storm force from the south, and a storm force foehn wind in the northern Alpine valleys

Outlook until Friday, 8.3.2013

Thursday

On Wednesday night, the foehn wind will cease to blow. The weather will be mostly very cloudy in all regions. A little snow will fall in the south and west. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease slowly. Isolated full-depth avalanches are possible.

Friday

The south will have sunny spells. In the north it will be changeable with showers. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.