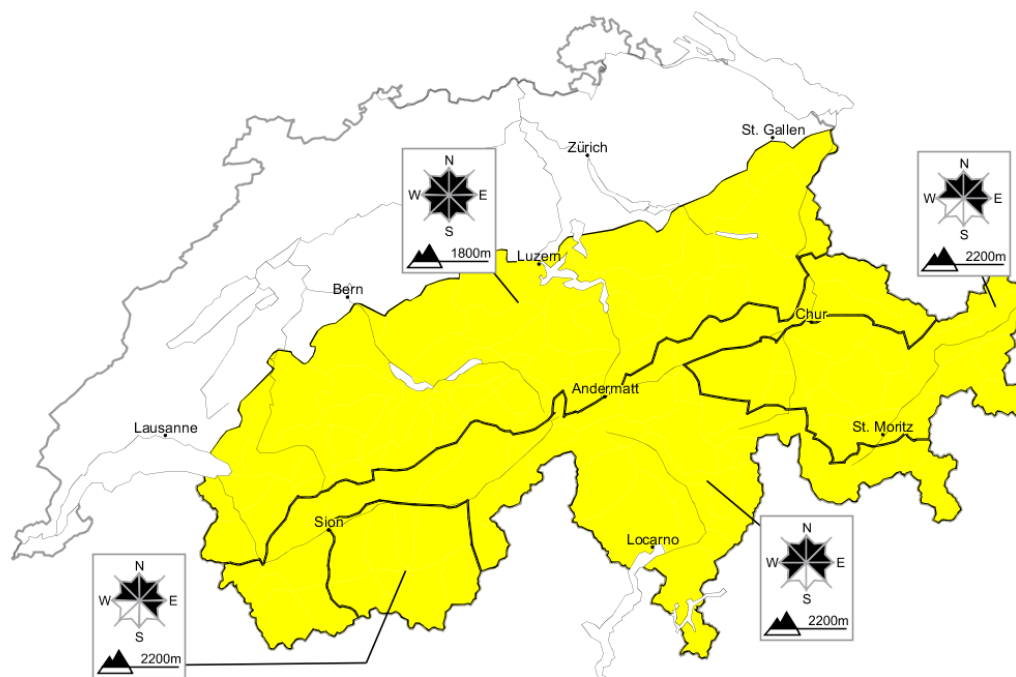


The southerly foehn wind will transport the snow. Snow drifts require caution

Edition: 17.3.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 17.3.2013, 17:00

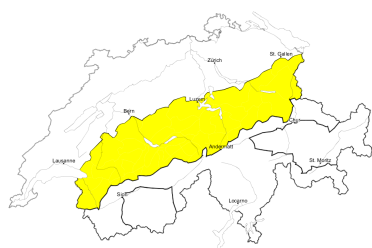
Avalanche danger

updated on 17.3.2013, 08:00



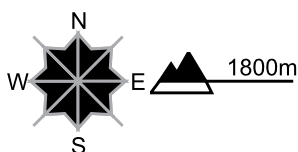
Region A

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

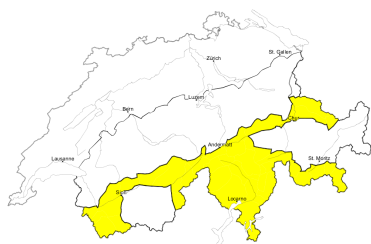


Danger description

In particular in the regions exposed to the foehn wind snow drift accumulations will form. They are mostly shallow. In many cases large surface-area snow drift accumulations will form. They will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack, in particular on west, north and east facing slopes. Snow drift accumulations can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant. They are to be bypassed as far as possible. As the day progresses as a consequence of the strong to storm force foehn wind there will be only a slight increase in the avalanche danger.

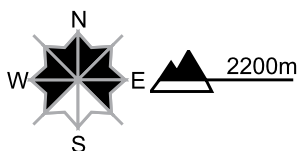
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

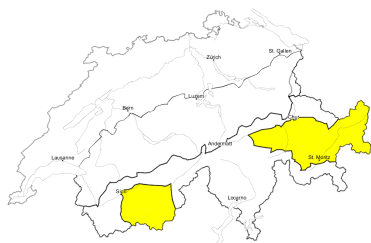


Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind snow drift accumulations will form. They are mostly rather small and can in some cases be released easily. In some localities large surface-area snow drift accumulations will form. They are to be bypassed. Southern flank of the Alps and western Lower Valais: As the day progresses as a consequence of the fresh snow there will be only a slight increase in the danger.

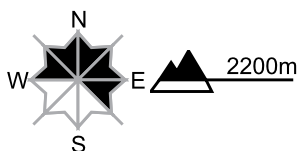
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the strong wind mostly small snow drift accumulations will form. They are easy for the trained eye to recognise and can in some cases be released easily. Avalanches can in isolated cases release deeper layers of the snowpack. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in west to north to southeast facing aspects and adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in all aspects. Careful route selection is advisable.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.3.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong to storm strength southerly winds, the light, loose layers of snow on the uppermost surface are being transported. Wind hardened, for a short spell easily triggered snowdrift accumulations are forming. On the northern flank of the Alps the snow cover above approximately 1800m is still composed mostly of light, loosely packed snow, that is where wide ranging snowdrift accumulations are expected to form from place to place.

In the inneralpine regions of the Valais, central Grisons, the Engadine and Val Müstair, intermediate and more deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover are to some extent faceted and weak. In those regions, avalanches which release from the uppermost surface can break through down to layers closer to the ground.

Observed weather on Saturday, 16.3.2013

It was sunny to begin with, during the course of the day high altitude cloud moved in from the west.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -6° C

Wind

- During the night on the Northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge, widespread moderate velocity, elsewhere light velocity northerly winds prevailed
- During the morning, winds shifted to southwesterly and were blowing at light to moderate velocity to begin with, during the course of the day intensifying in strength

Weather forecast until Sunday, 17.3.2013

In northern regions there will still be foehn-induced bright intervals during the morning. Thereafter, as already before in the remaining regions, skies will be heavily overcast in general. In southern regions more than anywhere else, snowfall down to low altitudes is anticipated.

Fresh snow

- Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon region into Bergell, as well as regions southwards therefrom: 10 to 15 cm
- remaining parts of Main Alpine Ridge, western sector of northern flank of the Alps: just a few centimeters; elsewhere it will remain dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions -2° C, in southern regions -8° C

Wind

At high altitudes and in the foehn-exposed regions, intermittently strong to storm strength, elsewhere moderate to strong velocity southerly to southwesterly winds

Outlook until Tuesday, 19.3.2013

Monday

With the exception of the recent foehn-induced bright intervals in eastern regions, snowfall is anticipated far and wide. In the regions on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, heavy snowfall down to low altitudes is expected. At high altitudes, a strong southwesterly wind will continue to blow. The avalanche danger is expected to increase in southern regions in particular.

Tuesday

In northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy and a small amount of snowfall is anticipated down to low altitudes. In southern regions it will be rather sunny. The winds will shift to westerly, but continue to blow at generally strong velocity in northern regions. In southern regions, winds will be lighter. The avalanche danger may well increase somewhat in northern regions.