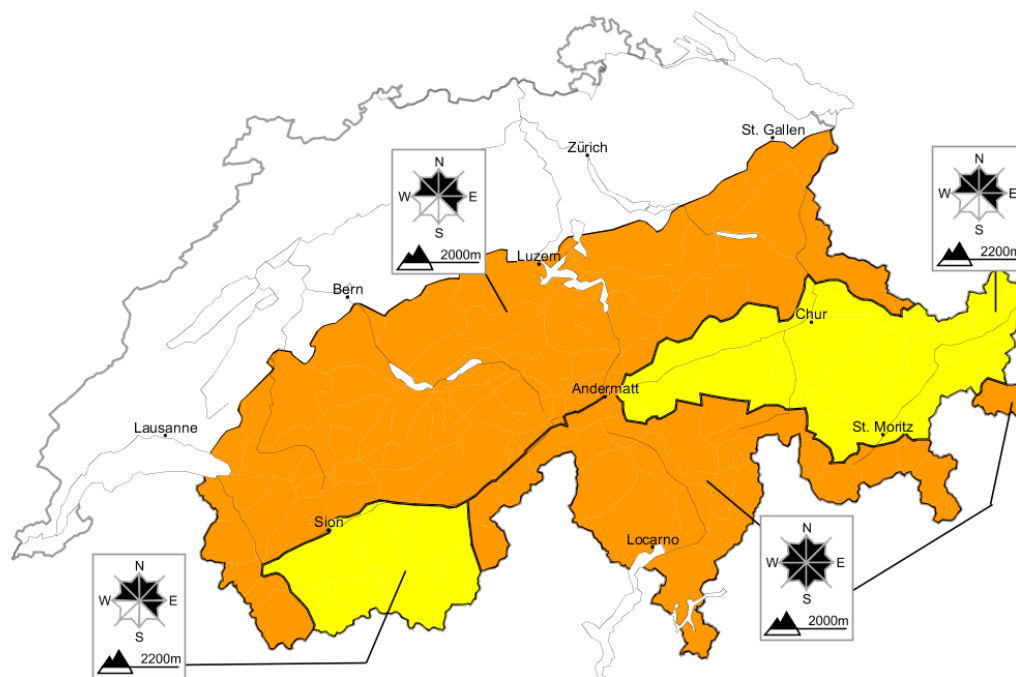


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Snow drifts require caution

Edition: 18.3.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 18.3.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 18.3.2013, 08:00



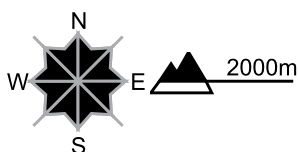
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

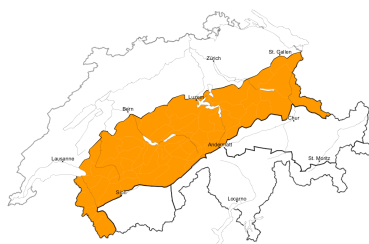
As a consequence of fresh snow and wind the previously small snow drift accumulations will increase in size appreciably. The snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released easily, even by a single winter sport participant. Natural avalanches are possible. Off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

In particular on cut and grassy slopes more frequent moist snow slides are to be expected. This applies in particular below approximately 1400 m.

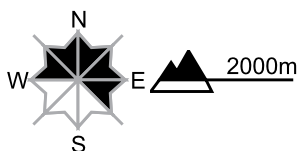
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

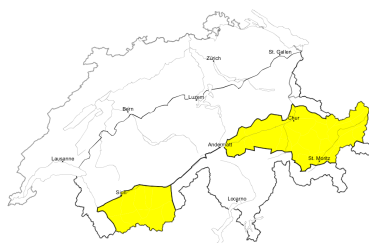


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind the snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. They will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack, in particular on west, north and east facing slopes. The snow drift accumulations of the last few days can be released easily, even by a single winter sport participant. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

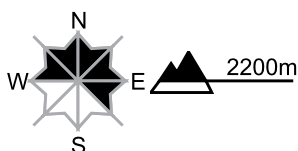
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind further snow drift accumulations will form. They are mostly rather small and can be released easily. 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. As the day progresses as a consequence of the fresh snow there will be an increase in the avalanche danger. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed. The inneralpine regions and Engadine: Avalanches can in isolated cases release deeper layers of the snowpack.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.3.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of the strong to storm strength southerly winds on Sunday, predominantly small sized but extensive, trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations have formed.

On Monday snowfall is anticipated widespread, particularly heavy on the southern flank of the Alps. The new fallen snow, more than anything else, will be transported and fresh, to some extent deep snowdrift accumulations are expected to form. They will be deposited on top of a relatively unfavourable old snowpack surface especially in western to northern to eastern aspects.

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 Sunday, 17.3.2013

Skies were heavily overcast in general. In eastern regions there were intermittent foehn-induced bright intervals. In southern regions and in the furthestmost western regions snowfall set in down to low altitudes.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday evening and Sunday evening the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:

- Chablais, western Lower Valais, southern flank of the Alps not including Val Müstair: 10 to 20 cm
- remaining regions: just a few centimeters or it remained dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: in western regions -4° C; in eastern and southern regions -7° C

Wind

In central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, moderate southwesterly winds, elsewhere strong to storm strength southwesterly winds widespread

Weather forecast until Monday, 18.3.2013

Skies are expected to be heavily overcast in general. Only in eastern regions will there be bright spells in some places during the morning. Snowfall is anticipated down to low altitudes, on the southern flank of the Alps heavy snowfall.

Fresh snow

- southern flank of the Alps and regions on the Main Alpine Ridge from San Bernardino to the Bernina: 30 to 40 cm, from place to place 50 cm
- western Prealps, remaining Valais, remaining Grisons south of the Rhine: 10 to 30 cm
- remaining regions: maximum 10 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: in western regions -7° C, in eastern and southern regions -4° C

Wind

- Moderate to strong velocity southwesterly winds will persist during the night.
- During the morning, winds will shift to westerly, blowing temporarily at light to moderate velocity. During the afternoon they will blow at strong velocity in northern regions, at moderate strength in southern regions from the northwest.

Outlook until Wednesday, 20.3.2013

On both days skies are expected to be variably cloudy accompanied by a small amount of snowfall down to low altitudes. In southern regions it will be quite sunny, particularly on Tuesday. Westerly winds will continue to blow at moderate to strong velocity. The avalanche danger is expected to subside only incrementally.