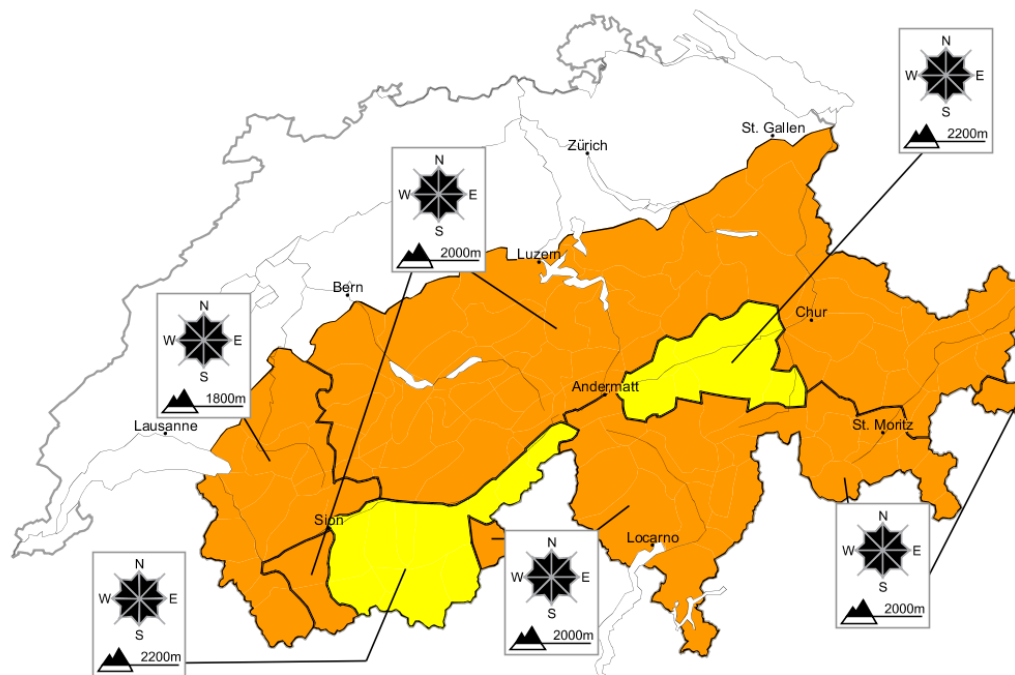


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 19.3.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 19.3.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 19.3.2013, 08:00

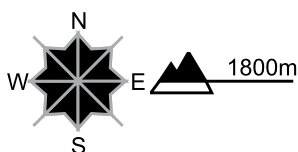


Region A Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



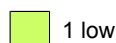
Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers by a single winter sport participant. Natural avalanches are to be expected. Off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides are to be expected. This applies in particular below approximately 2000 m.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



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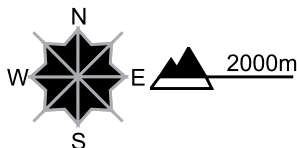
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last two days are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers by a single winter sport participant. Off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides are to be expected. This applies in particular below approximately 2000 m.

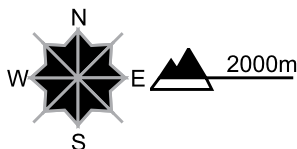
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

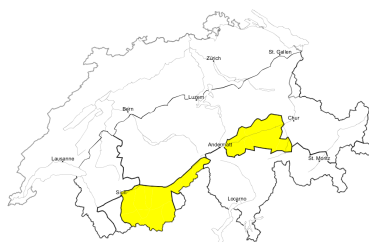
The somewhat older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and barely recognisable. In particular at high altitudes and in high Alpine regions further snow drift accumulations will form. Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers by a single winter sport participant. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides are possible. This applies in particular below approximately 2000 m.

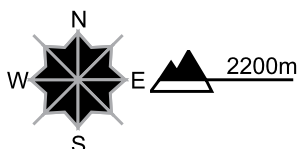
Region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind snow drift accumulations have formed. They are mostly rather small but can be released easily. At elevated altitudes avalanche prone locations are more prevalent. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed. The inneralpine regions: Avalanches can in isolated cases release deeper layers of the snowpack.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 18.3.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

A strong to storm force southerly foehn wind gave rise to snow drift accumulations over extensive areas at the weekend, which remain prone to triggering in some cases. These avalanche prone locations have been covered with fresh snow and are now barely recognisable. Strong wind from the west and fresh snow will give rise to fresh, rather small snow drift accumulations, in particular in the west and north.

In the inneralpine regions of Valais, and in central Grisons, Engadine and Val Müstair, 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 in isolated cases.

Observed weather on Monday, 18.3.2013

The weather was very cloudy with snowfall, especially in the south and west. In the south in particular, snow fell even in the valley bottoms.

Fresh snow

The following amounts of snow fell above approximately 1500 m in the period from Saturday evening until Monday evening:

- Extreme west of Lower Valais, southern Simplon region, southern flank of the Alps excluding Val Müstair: 30 to 50 cm
- Vaud and Fribourg Alps, rest of northern Valais, rest of the main Alpine ridge from the Furka Pass to Val Müstair, Upper Engadine: 10 to 30 cm
- Other regions: up to 10 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -5 °C

Wind

Moderate to strong southerly foehn wind during the night, light to moderate westerly wind during the day

Weather forecast until Tuesday, 19.3.2013

On Monday night in particular, snow will fall in the north, even at low altitudes. During the day, the weather will be changeable with snow showers and bright spells. It will be mostly sunny in the south.

Fresh snow

- North of a line between the Rhone and Rhine, western Lower Valais, northern Prättigau: 10 to 20 cm, but 30 cm in some localities on the northern Alpine ridge and in the extreme west of Lower Valais
- Other regions: up to 10 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -7 °C in the north and -5 °C in the south

Wind

Moderate to strong from the west, but northwesterly during the night in Grisons and Ticino

Outlook until Thursday, 21.3.2013

Wednesday will be mostly cloudy with light snow showers. Thursday will be mostly sunny in the west and south. In the north and east it will be changeable at first, becoming increasingly sunny as the day progresses. The westerly wind will be strong at times. The danger of dry avalanches will slowly decrease. The danger of moist snow slides and avalanches will increase during the day, especially on Thursday.