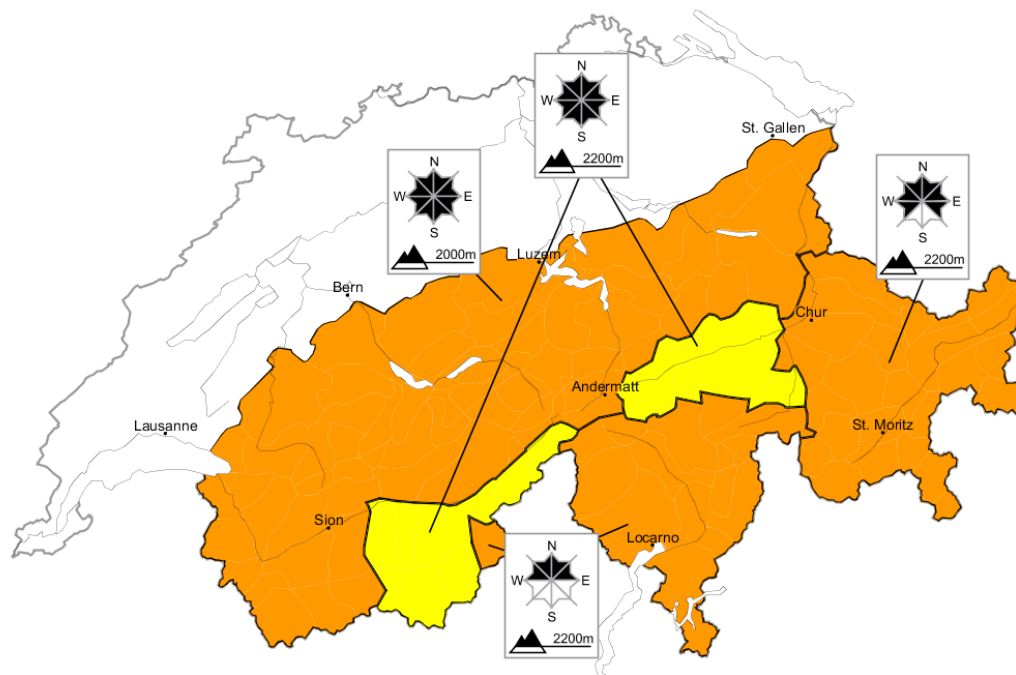


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 19.3.2013, 17:00 / Next update: 20.3.2013, 08:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 19.3.2013, 17:00



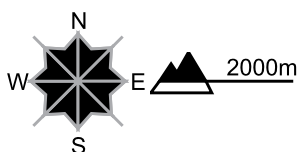
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are covered with fresh snow and difficult to recognise. As a consequence of the westerly wind mostly small snow drift accumulations will form, especially adjacent to the ridge line. These are prone to triggering. 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.

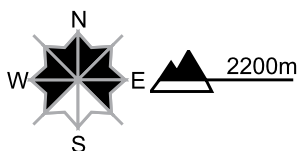
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few 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 experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

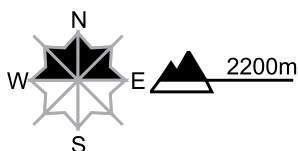
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

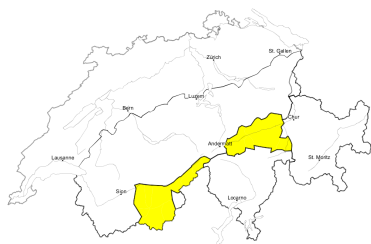


Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. 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.

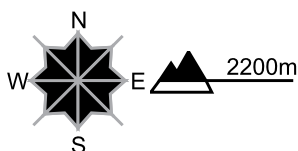
Region D

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 19.3.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

Since the weekend, fresh snow and a variable wind direction have given rise to extensive snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations were covered by fresh snow in some cases on Monday night and are now barely recognisable. Strong wind from the west at times will give rise to further mostly 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 Tuesday, 19.3.2013

During the night, snow fell in the far west and in the east of the Swiss Alps, heavily in some cases. During the day, it was mostly sunny in the west and south. The weather in the north was initially cloudy with snow showers, but became increasingly bright in the afternoon. The snowfall level was approximately 800 m.

Fresh snow

The following amounts of snow fell in the period from Saturday evening until Tuesday evening:

- Lower Valais in the extreme west and the north: 50 to 70 cm
- Western part of the northern flank of the Alps, rest of western Lower Valais, main Alpine ridge from the Furka Pass to Avers, Upper Engadine, southern flank of the Alps: 30 to 50 cm
- Other regions: 10 to 30 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -7 °C in the north and -4 °C in the south

Wind

Moderate to strong west to northwesterly during the night, light to moderate west to southwesterly during the day

Weather forecast until Wednesday, 20.3.2013

Mostly cloudy with light snowfall. Bright at times in Valais and the northern regions exposed to the foehn. The snowfall level will be approximately 800 m.

Fresh snow

A few centimetres over a wide area, but up to 10 cm on the northern flank of the Alps

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -4 °C

Wind

The westerly wind will be moderate, but strong in the high Alpine regions

Outlook until Friday, 22.3.2013

Thursday will be changeable with light snowfall and bright spells in the north. In the south, the mostly sunny weather will be accompanied by a strong northerly wind. Friday will be mostly sunny in the west and south, and increasingly sunny in the east as the day progresses. The danger of dry avalanches may increase a little in the south on Thursday, but it will decrease elsewhere. The danger of moist snow slides and avalanches will increase during each of the next two days. The danger of full-depth avalanches will increase a little.