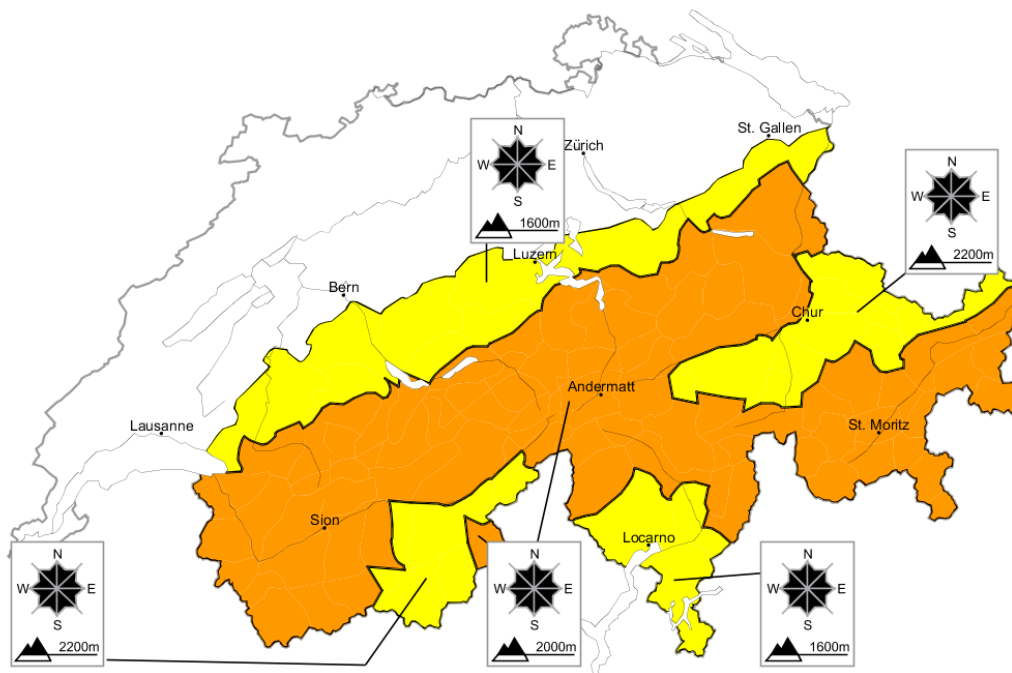


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Snow drifts require caution

Edition: 22.3.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 22.3.2013, 17:00

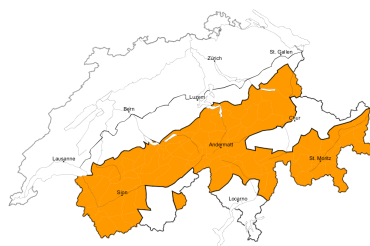
Avalanche danger

updated on 22.3.2013, 08:00



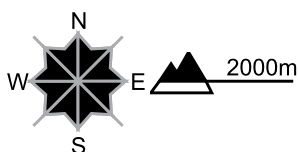
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

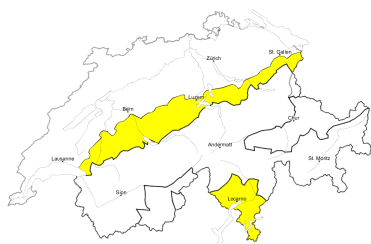
Dry avalanches can be triggered in the various layers of snow drift accumulations and reach medium size in some cases. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides and avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on steep sunny slopes below approximately 2400 m. Individual full-depth avalanches can also occur.

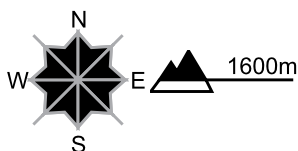
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

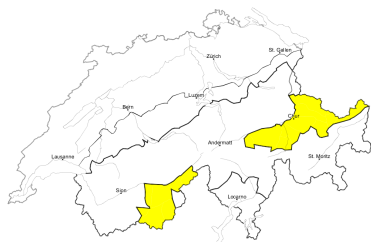
Fresh and somewhat older snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Full-depth avalanches

On steep sunny slopes moist snow slides and avalanches are possible as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation. Individual full-depth avalanches can also occur, especially in the Prealps.

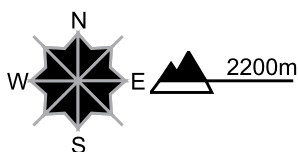
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers, even by small loads in isolated cases. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is level 3 (considerable). Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides and avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on steep sunny slopes below approximately 2400 m. Individual full-depth avalanches can also occur.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.3.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The layers of new fallen snow and snowdrift from this week are still prone to triggering to some extent. The major peril stems from these layers nearest to the uppermost surface. Beneath them the old snow cover is favourably structured far and wide. Weak, faceted layers more deeply embedded inside the snowpack are to be found in the inneralpine regions of the Valais, in central Grisons as well as in the Engadine and in Val Müstair in particular. Over the last few days, however, there have been next to no avalanches fracturing deep into the old snow cover.

As a result of the daytime warming cycle and solar radiation, the snow cover surface is moistening on steep, sunny slopes more than anywhere else, thereby weakening during the course of the day. In addition, increasingly frequent full depth snowslides can once again be expected.

Observed weather on Thursday, 21.3.2013

In western and southern regions skies were predominantly sunny. In eastern regions there was a small amount of snowfall during the morning, thereafter skies brightened increasingly from the west. The snowfall level in western regions lay at 800 m, in eastern regions at 500 m.

Fresh snow

- Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps, Gotthard region: 10 to 20 cm; in the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps as much as 30 cm from place to place
- Upper Valais, remaining Grisons, remaining northern Ticino: 5 to 10 cm; further to the south it remained dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000m, in northern regions -7° C, in southern regions -3° C

Wind

Moderate strength, from place to place strong velocity westerly to northwesterly winds

Weather forecast until Friday, 22.3.2013

Tonight in eastern regions a bit of snowfall is anticipated. During the day tomorrow it will be rather sunny, accompanied by high altitude cloudbanks.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

Temperatures are expected to rise significantly, by midday at 2000 m reaching between +2° C in western regions and -2° C in eastern regions.

Wind

Light to moderate westerly winds

Outlook until Sunday, 24.3.2013

On Saturday it will turn increasingly cloudy in the Valais and in southern regions. During the afternoon in southern regions a few centimeters of snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1600 m. In northern regions it will be partly sunny, with a tendency towards foehn wind conditions. On Sunday skies will be predominantly overcast, accompanied by light snowfall in western and southern regions in particular. The danger of dry avalanches will diminish. The danger of moist avalanches is expected to increase during the day on Saturday in particular. Full depth snowslides are possible.