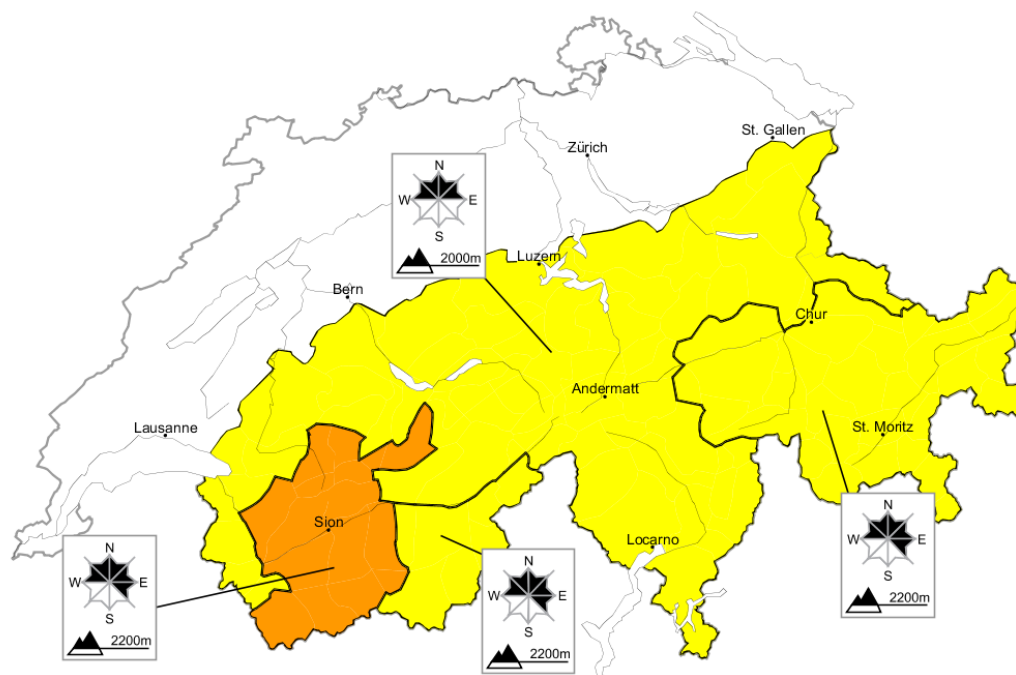


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 24.3.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 24.3.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 24.3.2013, 08:00



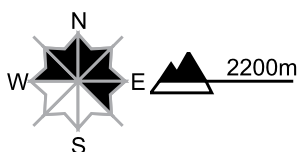
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

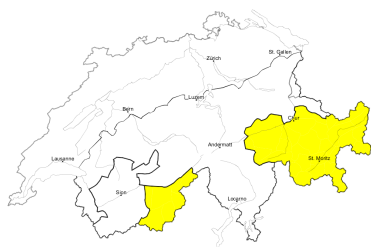


Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Avalanches can additionally, in isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow. These avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. 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.

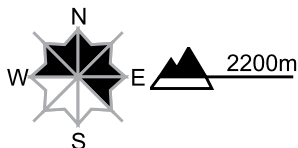
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

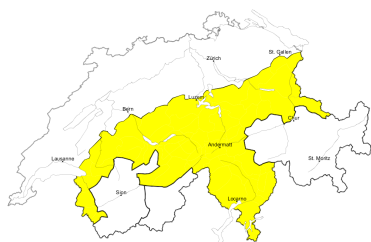


Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Avalanches can be released, even by small loads in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular in little used backcountry terrain. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is level 3 (considerable). Ski touring calls for defensive route selection.

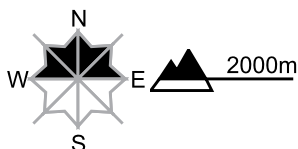
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The older snow drift accumulations can still be released in some cases. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. In high Alpine regions avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is level 3 (considerable). Careful route selection is recommended.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 23.3.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The intermediate and more deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover are favourably structured for the most part. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais, in central Grisons, as well as in the Engadine and in the Münstertal, however, there are weak, faceted layers evident deep inside the snowpack. In these regions in particular, the highly varied layers of fresh fallen and drifted snow from this week can easily be triggered in some places. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognize; they are to be found on north facing slopes and in terrain which is seldom used, more than anywhere else. Full depth snowslides continue to be possible in isolated cases.

Observed weather on Saturday, 23.3.2013

It was beautiful in eastern regions this morning; in the Upper Valais and the central sector of the northern flank of the Alps there were bright intervals. Elsewhere skies were predominantly overcast, although it remained dry for the most part.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions 0° C, in southern regions -3° C

Wind

Light to moderate westerly winds last night, shifting to southerly during the day today

Weather forecast until Sunday, 24.3.2013

Skies will be generally overcast. In southern regions, light but persistent snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1000 m. In the remaining regions a small amount of snowfall is expected above approximately 1400 m during the afternoon in particular.

Fresh snow

- southern flank of the Alps. 10 to 15 cm; in Sotto Ceneri, as much as 20 cm
- remaining regions: 0 to 5 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions -1° C; in southern regions -3° C

Wind

Light southerly winds

Outlook until Tuesday, 26.3.2013

On Monday, skies will be generally overcast accompanied by some bright intervals in northern regions above approximately 1500 m. On Tuesday, increasingly frequent bright spells from the west. On both days, some snow showers are anticipated. The snowfall level will drop to below 1000 m. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.