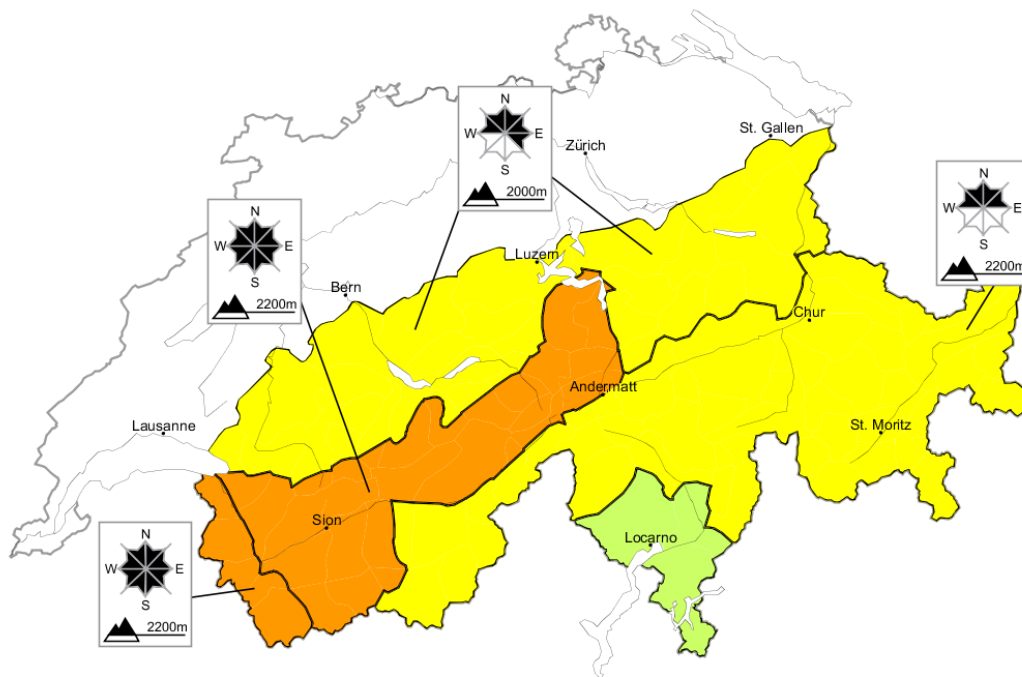


As a consequence of fresh snow and wind a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 29.3.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 29.3.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 29.3.2013, 08:00



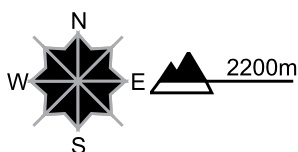
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Over a wide area 30 cm of snow, and even more in some localities, has fallen since yesterday. The sometimes large snow drift accumulations are very prone to triggering. Natural avalanches are to be expected, including medium-sized ones. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases. Off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



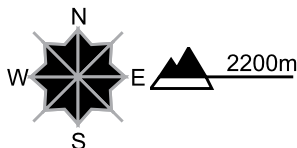
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

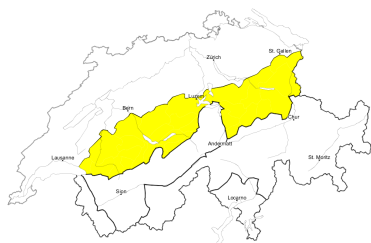


Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. In particular in the west these can in some cases reach medium size. Southern Valais: In addition avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers. This applies in particular in little used backcountry terrain. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

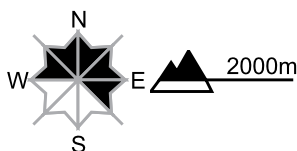
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

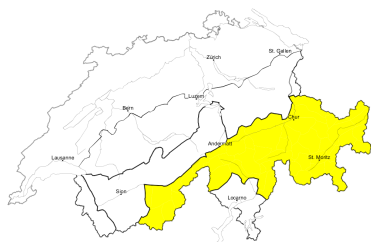


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind mostly small snow drift accumulations have formed. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. Careful route selection is important.

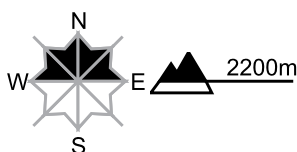
Region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the southwesterly wind the snow drift accumulations will increase in size additionally. This applies in particular at elevated altitudes. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas. The sometimes avalanche-prone snow drift accumulations must be evaluated with care and prudence. The inneralpine regions: In addition avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers. This applies in particular in little used backcountry terrain. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Ski touring calls for careful route selection.

Region E

Level 1, low



Old snow

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on extremely steep north facing slopes. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 28.3.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

Under the impact of intermittently strong velocity southwesterly winds, fresh snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering have formed at high altitudes in Lower Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons more than anywhere else. They are expected to swell to larger size during the night tonight. The intermediate and more deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover are favourably structured for the most part. Nevertheless, in central Valais, in central Grisons, in the Engadine and in the Münstertal, there are weak, faceted layers evident within the snow cover. In these regions more than anywhere else, avalanches can be triggered in the more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack from place to place. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognize; they are to be found first and foremost on north facing slopes and in terrain which is seldom used.

Observed weather on Thursday, 28.3.2013

This morning there were still bright intervals in eastern regions. Elsewhere skies were overcast. During the course of the day above approximately 1200 m, light snowfall set in from the west.

Fresh snow

- in western Lower Valais, approximately 10 cm
- elsewhere, just a few centimeters
- in eastern and southern regions it remained dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in northern regions about -2° C, in southern regions about -6° C

Wind

Southwesterly winds

- widespread at moderate velocity, intermittently strong in the foehn wind corridors in particular
- in southern Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps, generally light strength

Weather forecast until Friday, 29.3.2013

Tonight in western and northern regions, snowfall is anticipated down to low altitudes. Skies are expected to clear up in the latter part of the night particularly in southern regions. During the morning hours of Good Friday, the last of the snowfall will come to an end in eastern regions and it will turn rather sunny for a brief interim. During the course of the day, new cloudbanks will move in from the west and snowfall will set in again above approximately 1400 m.

Fresh snow

On the northern flank of the Alps and in western Lower Valais, about 5 to 15 cm; elsewhere maximum 5 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -3° C

Wind

In northern regions, moderate to strong velocity winds, elsewhere light to moderate strength from the southwest

Outlook until Sunday, 31.3.2013

On Saturday, conditions will be variable. In northern regions in particular, snow showers are expected above approximately 1200 m. On Easter Sunday, snowfall down to low altitudes is anticipated to start with. During the course of the day, bright spells are expected to appear from the west and south. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease somewhat. In case of more extended bright intervals, wet snow avalanches will be possible in isolated cases.