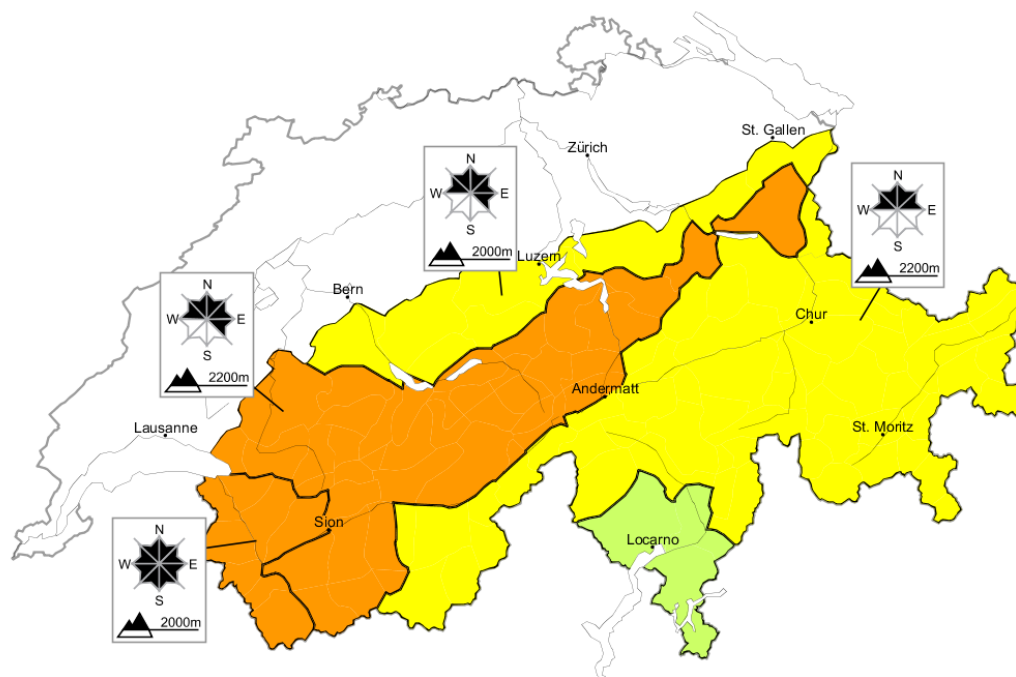


As a consequence of fresh snow and wind a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 30.3.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 30.3.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 30.3.2013, 08:00



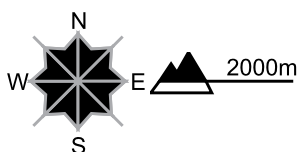
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

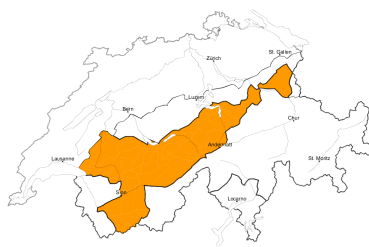
The sometimes large snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Wet avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m more frequent wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

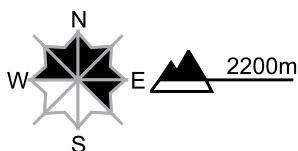
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

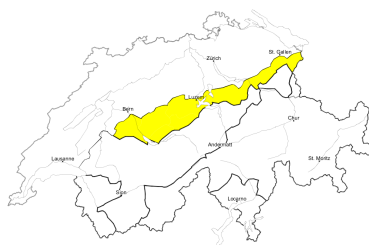


Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Only isolated natural avalanches are possible. 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.

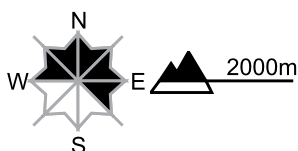
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

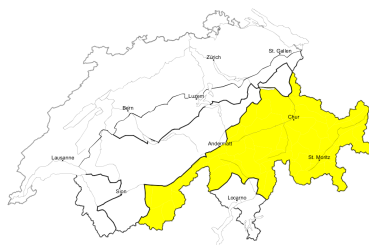


Danger description

The fresh snow drift accumulations are to be evaluated with care and prudence. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. Careful route selection is important.

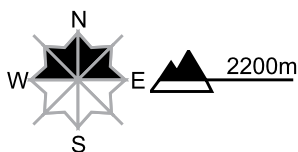
Region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In particular at elevated altitudes mostly small snow drift accumulations have formed. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The sometimes avalanche-prone snow drift accumulations are to 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. 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 29.3.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of the new fallen snow and southwesterly winds, which in some places attained strong velocity, snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering have formed. The drifted masses tend to be both more frequent and of larger size at high altitudes and in western regions in general.

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 Friday, 29.3.2013

On Thursday night the snowfall came to an end in eastern regions as well. In Grisons above approximately 2200 m and in southern regions, there were bright intervals during the morning on Good Friday. Elsewhere skies were overcast. During the course of the day, snowfall set in again from the west above approximately 1200 m.

Fresh snow

Between the morning of Holy Thursday and the evening of Good Friday, the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered:

- westernmost Lower Valais: 30 to 50 cm
- western sector of northern flank of the Alps, remaining Lower Valais, northern Valais, Bergell, Val Poschiavo: 15 to 30 cm
- remaining regions, widespread 5 to 15 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, about -2° C

Wind

Southwesterly winds, in western regions at strong velocity, elsewhere generally of moderate strength

Weather forecast until Saturday, 30.3.2013

Conditions will be variable in northern regions. Bright intervals are anticipated during the morning in particular. During the course of the day above approximately 1100 m, snowfall will set in from the west. In southern regions it will be rather sunny in the mornings, then turn increasingly overcast during the afternoons, accompanied by light snowfall.

Fresh snow

Widespread 5 to 10 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -3° C

Wind

On Friday night, moderate velocity westerly winds, during the day on Saturday predominantly light winds shifting to northerly

Outlook until Monday, 1.4.2013

On Easter Sunday in northern regions, snowfall down to low altitudes is anticipated. In southern regions it will be partly sunny, accompanied by northerly winds. On Easter Monday it will turn increasingly sunny in northern regions, in southern regions it will remain variably cloudy. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to increase in some areas of northern regions on Sunday. Elsewhere there will be no significant change in the avalanche situation.