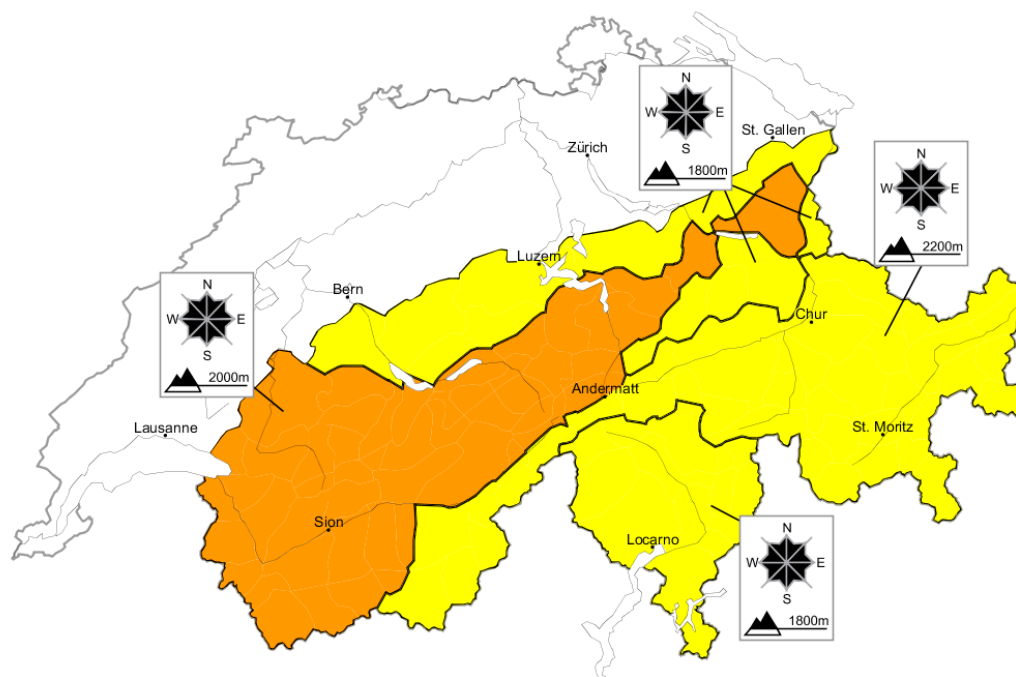


In the north and in the west a considerable avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 31.3.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 31.3.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 31.3.2013, 08:00



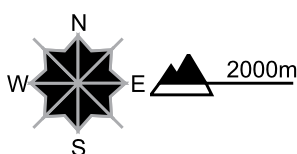
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The sometimes large snow drift accumulations of the last two days are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. They can be released by a single winter sport participant. Fresh and older snow drift accumulations are to be assessed with care and prudence. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Southern Valais: In addition avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers. This applies in particular on steep west, north and east facing slopes, especially in little used backcountry terrain. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Below approximately 2200 m more frequent small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected. In the event of solar radiation this applies in particular in the west.

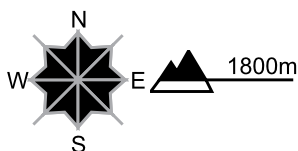
Region B

Level 2, moderate



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. The older snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Careful route selection is important.

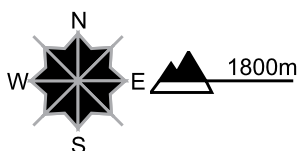
Region C

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

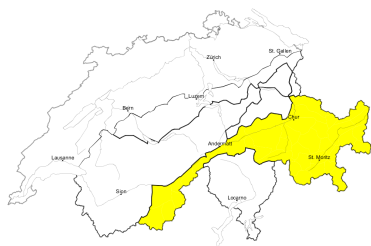


Danger description

As a consequence of the northerly wind rather small snow drift accumulations will form. These are to be assessed with care and prudence. The avalanche prone locations are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. They are to be avoided as far as possible.

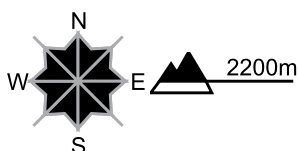
Region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older snow drift accumulations are in some cases prone to triggering. They are mostly small. They are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. The older snow drift accumulations are covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Southern Upper Valais, and the inneralpine regions of Grisons: In addition avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers. This applies in particular on steep west, north and east facing slopes, especially in little used backcountry terrain. Ski touring calls for careful route selection.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 30.3.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of the new fallen snow and southwesterly winds persisting until the morning of Easter Sunday, which in some places attained strong velocity, snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering have formed. The snow drift accumulations tend to occur more frequently and be of larger size at high altitudes and in western regions in general. They have now been blanketed over by fresh fallen snow, which makes them difficult to recognize.

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 Saturday, 30.3.2013

After the final round of precipitation came to an end on the northern flank of the Alps and bright intervals followed during the night, precipitation set in anew from the southwest during the morning on Holy Saturday.

Fresh snow

Since the evening of Good Friday, the following amounts of snowfall have been registered:

- in westernmost Lower Valais, in the western Prealps, from region to region in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps as well as in the Gotthard region: 10 to 20 cm
- in the remaining regions: less than 10 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2° C

Wind

During the night, southwesterly winds were still blowing at moderate to strong velocity on the northern flank of the Alps in particular; in the remaining regions winds were blowing at light to moderate strength. Today the winds slackened off.

Weather forecast until Sunday, 31.3.2013

Skies will be heavily overcast in general in northern regions and repeated snowfall is anticipated down to low altitudes on the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else. Bright intervals in western regions are expected during the afternoon. On the southern flank of the Alps and in southern Upper Valais it will be rather sunny.

Fresh snow

- central and eastern sectors of northern flank of the Alps: 20 to 30 cm
- western sector of northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm
- Valais, remaining parts of Grisons: maximum 10 cm
- Ticino: it will remain dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m

- in northern regions, -8° C
- in southern regions, -4° C

Wind

Predominantly light northerly winds, intermittently at moderate velocity

Outlook until Tuesday, 2.4.2013

Clear skies are expected in the mountains in western regions in particular during the night of Easter Sunday. During the day on Easter Monday it will be rather sunny in northern regions, and overcast in southern regions, accompanied by a small amount of precipitation. On Tuesday it will be partly sunny in northern regions more than anywhere else. In southern regions, skies will be heavily overcast. In eastern and southern regions, a small amount of precipitation is anticipated. The avalanche danger will decrease somewhat.