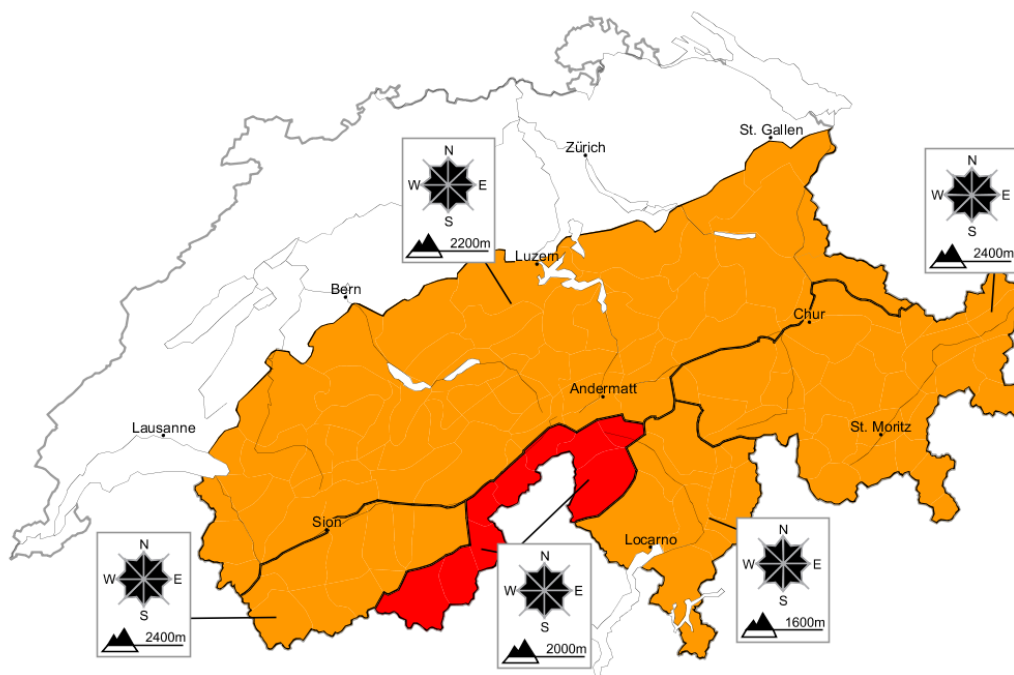


In the south a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 20.4.2013, 17:00 / Next update: 21.4.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 20.4.2013, 17:00



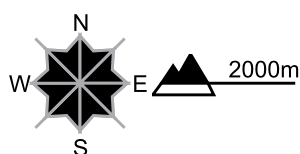
Region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts, old snow, wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released easily or triggered naturally. Natural avalanches are to be expected in particular during the night. The old snowpack is weakly bonded over a wide area. In many cases the avalanches can release the saturated snowpack and reach large size in some cases. Exposed transportation routes are endangered.

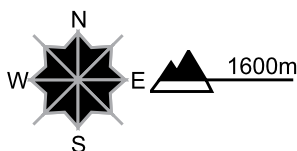
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts, wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. More frequent small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized moist and wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases.

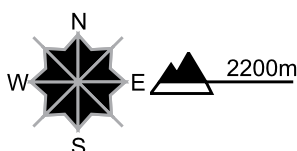
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As the day progresses as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation there will be an increase in the danger of wet and full-depth avalanches to level 3 (considerable). This applies in all aspects below approximately 2200 m and on very steep sunny slopes below approximately 3000 m. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be started early and concluded timely.

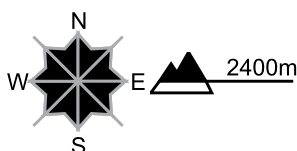
Region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. The avalanches can penetrate down to the ground and reach medium size. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As the day progresses as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation there will be an increase in the danger of wet and full-depth avalanches to level 3 (considerable), especially in northern and central Grisons and in Valais. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2400 m and on very steep sunny slopes below approximately 3000 m. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be started early and concluded timely.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 20.4.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong velocity easterly winds, especially above approximately 2500 m, new snowdrift accumulations have formed. Below about 3200 m on south facing slopes, and below about 2500 m on north facing slopes, the fresh fallen and drifted snow masses now cover a zero-degree isothermal and wet old snow cover. During this last week a high number of medium sized, and in isolated cases also large sized, wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides have been released. Now that the north facing slopes have also started to moisten they have destabilized increasingly.

From region to region on west and east facing slopes, and in particular on north facing slopes, there are still massive amounts of snow in the avalanche starting zones. Previous to Saturday's snowfall, south facing slopes had in large part already discharged. In southern Valais and in the remaining regions of Grisons there are weak, faceted layers evident within the old snow cover. In those regions in particular, avalanches are being triggered which fracture all the way down to near-ground level layers of the snowpack.

Observed weather on Saturday, 20.4.2013

Skies were heavily overcast last night, accompanied by intermittently heavy snowfall on the northern flank of the Alps, in central Grisons and on the southern flank of the Alps. During the day today there were occasional bright intervals in northern regions. In southern regions the snowfall persisted. The snowfall level at the beginning of the outbreak of precipitation on Friday was at 2000 m in northern regions, at 2400 m in southern regions. It then dropped during the night to approximately 600 m, in southern regions to about 1000 m. On Saturday it ascended again during the course of the day to approximately 1600 m.

Fresh snow

Between Friday morning and Saturday afternoon above approximately 2000 m, the following amounts of snowfall were registered:

- northern flank of the Alps not including western Bernese Oberland and not including Prealps, western Main Alpine Ridge and westernmost Lower Valais, Gotthard region, Ticino, Grisons not including the regions Prättigau, Lower Engadine, Val Müstair: widespread 40 to 70 cm, from place to place as much as 90 cm
- Prealps, western Bernese Oberland, remaining Valais, Prättigau, Lower Engadine, Val Müstair: 20 to 40 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -5° C in northwestern regions and -1° C in southeastern regions

Wind

Moderate to strong velocity winds, on the northern flank of the Alps from northeasterly directions, in the remaining regions and in high alpine regions in general from southeasterly directions

Weather forecast until Sunday, 21.4.2013

On Saturday night in northern regions skies will be partly clear, in southern regions they will be overcast and snowfall is anticipated in the Upper Valais sector of the Main Alpine Ridge in particular. The snowfall level will be 1600 m. During the day on Sunday, low stratus cloud is expected in northern regions. Above approximately 2000 m it will be sunny, accompanied by convective cloud in the afternoon. In the Valais sector of the Main Alpine Ridge, on the southern flank of the Alps and in central and southern Grisons, skies will range from variably cloudy to heavily overcast.

Fresh snow

- Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn into the Simplon region: 20 to 40 cm
- remaining southern Valais, Gotthard region, southern flank of the Alps, central Grisons, Engadine: 5 to 10 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in western and southern regions 0° C, in eastern regions +2° C

Wind

Light to moderate strength easterly to southeasterly winds

Outlook until Tuesday, 23.4.2013

On Monday, skies will turn increasingly cloudy, accompanied by bright intervals and showers. The snowfall level will be 1400 m. On Tuesday, it will become increasingly sunny and milder. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to diminish. The danger of wet avalanches will increase during the course of each day.