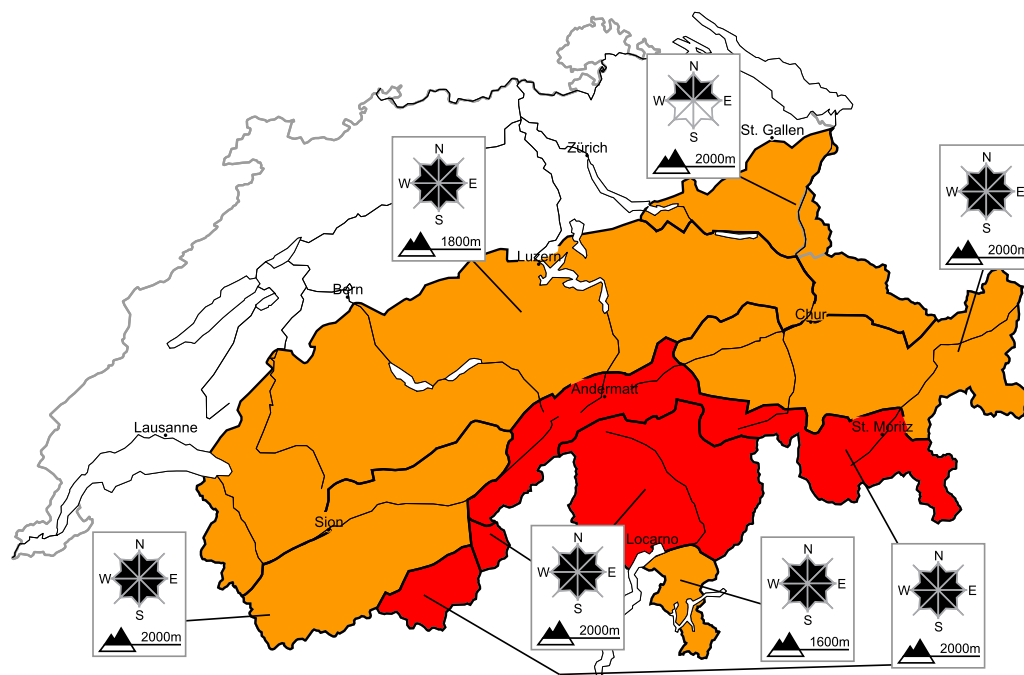


In the south a high avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 26.12.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 26.12.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 26.12.2013, 08:00



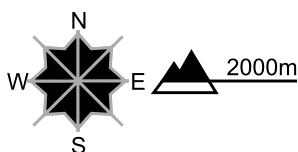
Region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can in many places be released by a single winter sport participant. Many medium-sized and, in many cases, large natural avalanches are to be expected. Exposed transportation routes are endangered. The off-piste conditions are very critical. Restraint is recommended.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

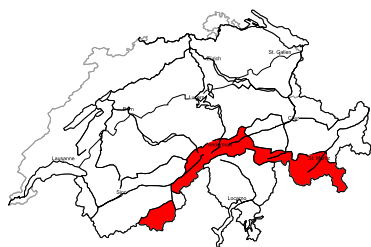
5 very high



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Region B

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

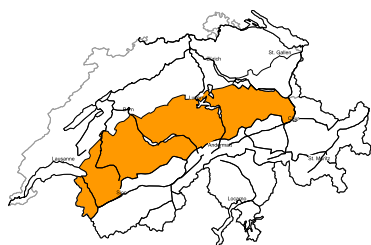
Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can in many places be released by a single winter sport participant. Many small to medium-sized natural avalanches are to be expected. The off-piste conditions are very critical. Caution and restraint are recommended.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m small and medium-sized full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected.

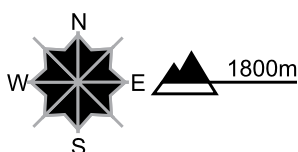
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

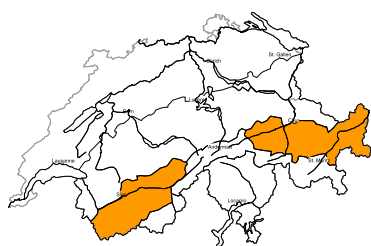


Danger description

The avalanche danger will increase during the day. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack in particular on shady slopes and generally at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

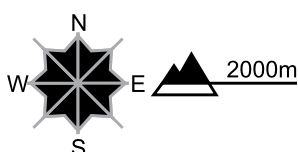
Region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The avalanche danger will increase during the day. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack in particular on shady slopes and generally at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

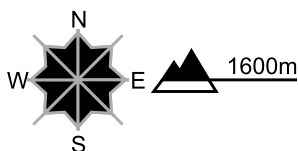
Region E

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Small to medium-sized natural avalanches are possible. The avalanche conditions are very critical.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Small to medium-sized full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases.

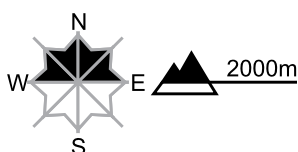
Region F

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack in particular on shady slopes and generally at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 25.12.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The storm winds have blown summits and ridges bare of snow. New fallen and old snow alike were transported and have to some extent formed deep snowdrift accumulations over widespread areas. The drifted masses have been deposited on shady slopes in particular where they are poorly bonded with the old snow. In addition, that old snow itself is weak, since very soft, highly faceted layers are embedded inside the snow cover on slopes in all aspects. Avalanches can sweep away parts of the generally thin old snowpack.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 25.12.2013

It has been heavily overcast in general, only in northeastern regions were foehn-induced bright intervals evident in the early morning. In southern regions above 1200 m to 1500 m there was snowfall.

Fresh snow

Between Monday evening and Wednesday evening above approximately 2000 m, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- southern Simplon region and central sector of southern flank of the Alps: 40 to 60 cm; in Ticino as much as 80 cm from place to place
- remaining Main Alpine Ridge from Upper Valais into Bernina region: 20 to 40 cm
- Lower Valais sector of Main Alpine Ridge, remaining Upper Engadine: 10 to 20 cm; elsewhere, less

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m between +1 °C in northern regions and -3 °C in southern regions

Wind

Strong to storm-force, during the night reaching gale strength from southerly directions; foehn-storm in the Alpine valleys

Weather forecast through Thursday, 26.12.2013

The snowfall will persist and spread across the Main Alpine Ridge into northern regions. The snowfall level in northern regions is expected to drop down to about 600 m, in southern regions down to about 1000 m. During the afternoon the precipitation will slacken off significantly in southern regions in particular.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday and Thursday evening above approximately 2000 m:

- central part of southern flank of the Alps: 80 to 100 cm
- remaining Main Alpine Ridge from Monte Rosa to the Bernina Pass, central and eastern parts of northern flank of the Alps, central Grisons, Upper Engadine: 50 to 80 cm
- remaining regions: 30 to 50 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m between -6 °C in northern regions and -3 °C in southern regions

Wind

On Wednesday evening the foehn will come to an end. On Thursday a moderate to strong northerly wind will be blowing.

Outlook through Saturday, 28.12.2013

Friday

The snowfall will terminate during the night tonight. Tomorrow it will be predominantly sunny. The danger of naturally triggered avalanches is expected to diminish. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs the situation for backcountry skiers and freeriders remains critical over widespread areas.

Saturday

In eastern regions foehn-induced bright intervals will be evident to start with, thereafter skies will become increasingly cloudy. In western and southern regions it will be heavily overcast; snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1000 m. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.