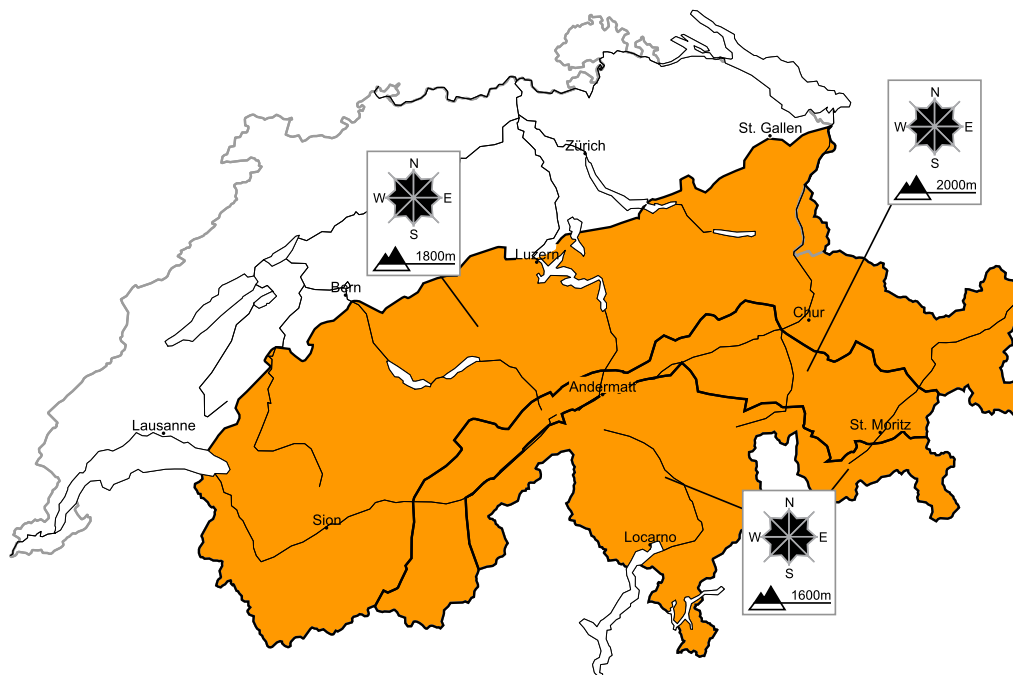


Outside marked and open pistes a very precarious avalanche situation will prevail

Edition: 26.12.2013, 17:00 / Next update: 27.12.2013, 08:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 26.12.2013, 17:00



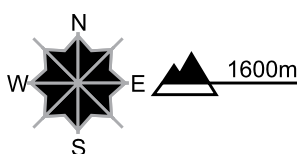
Region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can in many places be released, even by a single winter sport participant. The avalanches can penetrate even deep layers and reach quite a large size. The off-piste conditions are very precarious. Caution and restraint are required.

During the night more natural avalanches are possible, including large ones in isolated cases. Exposed transportation routes are endangered. Until the early morning the natural avalanche activity will decrease.

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

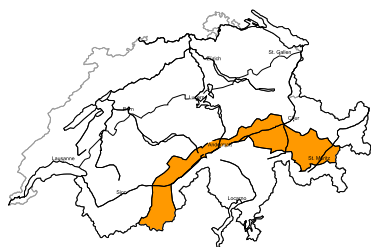


5 very high



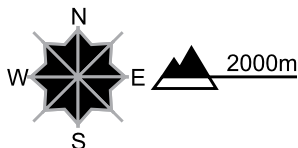
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

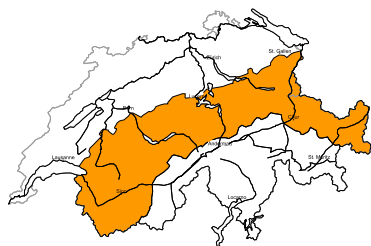
Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can in many places be released, even by a single winter sport participant. The avalanches can penetrate even deep layers and reach medium size. From early morning only isolated natural avalanches are to be expected. The off-piste conditions are very precarious. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Caution and restraint are required.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

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

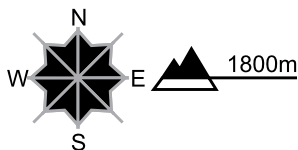
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The 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. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m full-depth avalanches and moist snow slides are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 26.12.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

There has been inordinately heavy snowfall on the southern flank of the Alps; at some measurement stations, the 24-hr new snow record was broken or almost broken. This makes the snow depths in southern regions above average. In northern regions they are still below average.

New fallen and drifted snows have been deposited on shady slopes more than anywhere else atop a weak old snow cover or on top of still trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations from the foehn storms around Christmas. The northerly winds will bring about additional snowdrift accumulations on Thursday evening. The likelihood of avalanches triggering is high, they can also sweep away parts of the predominantly thin old snowpack.

Observed weather on Thursday, 26.12.2013

Skies were heavily overcast accompanied by widespread snowfall. In southern regions the precipitation was intensive and heavy. The snowfall level dropped from 1500 m down to 500 to 800 m.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening in Ticino there was 100 to 120 cm of fresh fallen snow, on the remaining southern flank of the Alps excluding Val Müstair 80 to 100 cm. Further to the north the amounts of snowfall decrease significantly. All in all, the amounts of new fallen snow from Monday until Thursday evening above approximately 2000 m amounted to:

- southern Simplon and central sector of southern flank of the Alps: 100 to 150 cm, in Ticino regionally as much as 180 cm
- remaining Main Alpine Ridge from Zermatt into the Bernina region: 70 to 100 cm
- central Grisons, remaining Upper Engadine: 50 to 70 cm
- remaining regions: 20 to 50 cm

Temperature

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

Wind

During the night moderate to strong velocity southerly winds, during the day light to moderate strength winds, in southern and eastern regions to some extent strong winds from northerly directions

Weather forecast through Friday, 27.12.2013

During the night a bit of additional snowfall is anticipated in northern regions. The snowfall level will be at 600 m. During the day tomorrow it will be predominantly sunny, in eastern regions increasingly so.

Fresh snow

Northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm

Elsewhere: just a few centimeters or it will remain dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m between 0 °C in northern regions and -2 °C in southern regions

Wind

Weak to moderate southwesterly winds. Towards evening foehn wind will arise.

Outlook through Sunday, 29.12.2013**Saturday**

In northern regions there will be foehn-induced bright intervals in the early morning hours, during the day skies will become increasingly overcast from the west, accompanied by light snowfall. In southern regions skies will have heavy cloud cover accompanied by light snowfall in general. At high altitudes a strong southwesterly wind will be blowing. The avalanche danger will remain critical for backcountry skiers and freeriders.

Sunday

Variable conditions accompanied by snow showers and bright intervals. The snowfall level will be at 600 m. The avalanche danger is expected to gradually diminish.