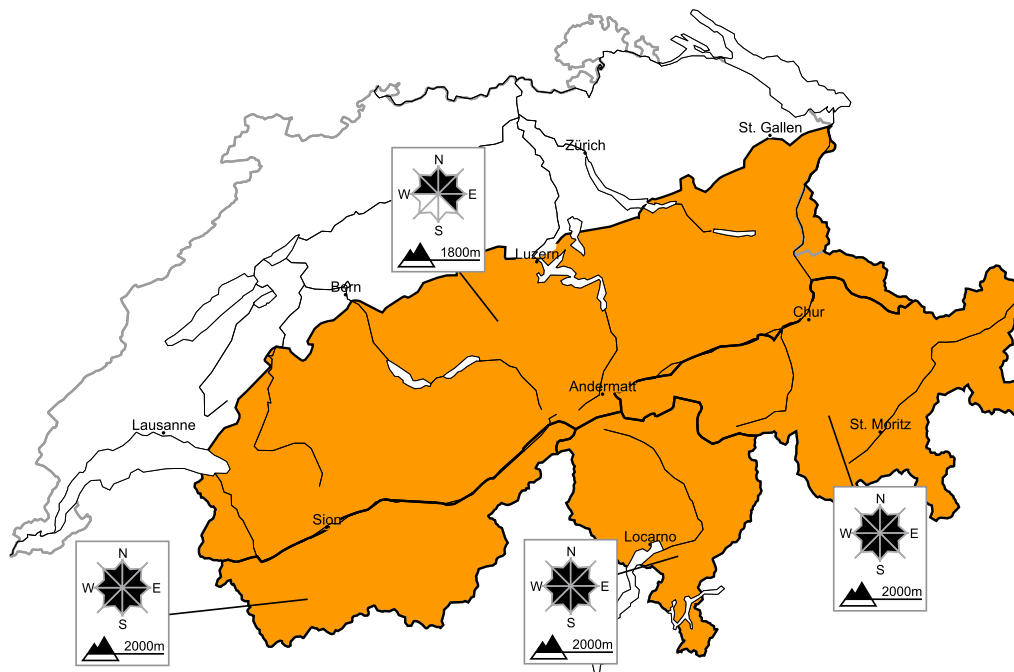


A precarious avalanche situation will persist

Edition: 29.12.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 29.12.2013, 17:00

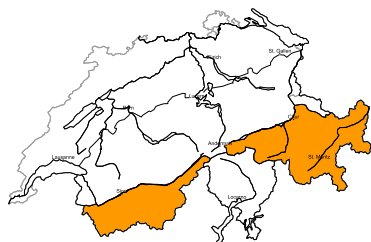
Avalanche danger

updated on 29.12.2013, 08:00



Region A

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

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. Remote triggering is possible. 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 extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Upper Visp valleys and Lower Engadine south of the Inn: In particular on north facing slopes individual medium-sized natural avalanches are possible in starting zones where no previous releases have taken place.

Full-depth avalanches

In particular on the Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon Pass to Upper Engadine more full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

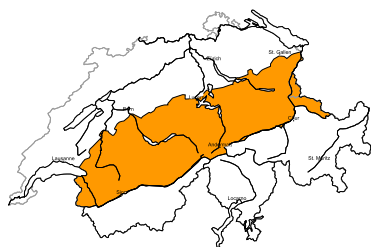
3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

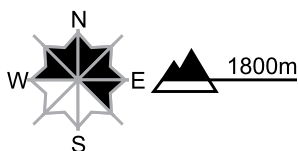
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Snow drifts, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow drift accumulations of Saturday are in some cases still prone to triggering. They are covered with fresh snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can additionally be released in near-ground layers, even by small loads in isolated cases. Whumping 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.

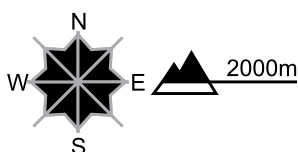
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in deeper layers, this applies in particular in case of a large load. Caution is to be exercised in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 28.12.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The snowfall from the Christmas holidays was deposited atop a weak old snow cover, especially on shady slopes. In the southern regions where snowfall was heaviest it has now stabilised quite well, in other regions it is still trigger sensitive, particularly in high regions. Especially in parts of the southern Valais, central Grisons and the Engadine, avalanches can be released with great ease in some places.

The northerly winds on Friday morning, particularly the strong to stormy southerly wind on Saturday, transported the loosely packed old snow. Snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering were formed. On Saturday night they will be blanketed over by new fallen snow and rendered all but unrecognizable.

Observed weather on Saturday, 28.12.2013

In western regions conditions were variable in the early morning, then skies turned heavily overcast. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, as well as in northern Grisons and the Engadine, it was sunny, then cloud moved in during the afternoon. In southern regions it was cloudy. In the afternoon in southern and western regions it began to snow.

Fresh snow

In western and southern regions, just a few centimeters

Temperature

At midday at 2000m between +2 °C in northern regions and -3 °C in southern regions

Wind

- Moderate to strong southerly winds, on the northern Main Alpine Ridge at storm velocity in some places
- In the foehn-exposed valleys of the north, stormy foehn winds to some extent

Weather forecast through Sunday, 29.12.2013

During the night snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. Tomorrow it will be variably cloudy during the day, with extended sunny spells, but also isolated snowfall particularly in the morning in eastern regions and in the afternoon in northern regions. In southern regions it will rapidly become sunny in the morning.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday midday and Sunday evening the following amounts are expected:

- Ticino, Val Calanca, Val Moesa, and from Bergell into the Bernina region: 15 - 30 cm
- remaining regions: 5 - 15 cm

Temperature

Temperatures at 2000 m will drop by midday in northern regions to -7 °C and in southern regions to -5 °C

Wind

Moderate westerly winds, shifting to northerly during the day on southern flank of the Alps.

Outlook through Tuesday, 31.12.2013

On both days it will be quite sunny. The avalanche danger will diminish only gradually.