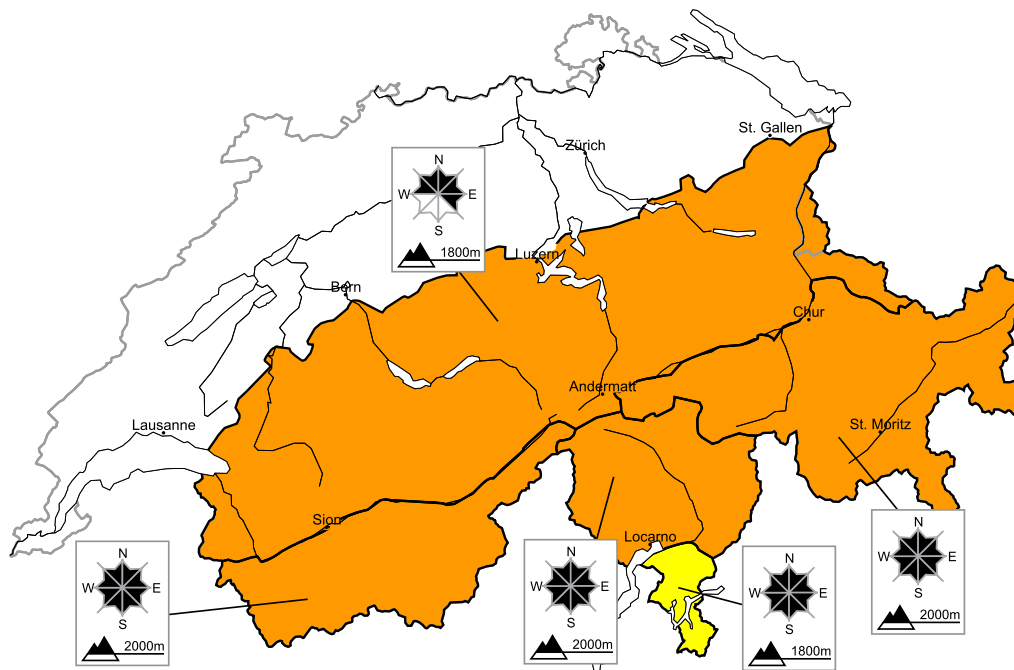


A precarious avalanche situation will persist

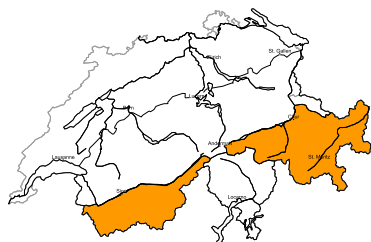
Edition: 30.12.2013, 08:00 / Next update: 30.12.2013, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 30.12.2013, 08:00

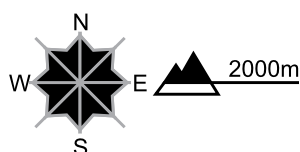


Region A **Level 3, considerable**



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



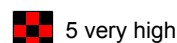
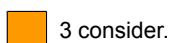
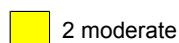
Danger description

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 by a single winter sport participant. Remote triggering is possible in isolated cases. Whumpung 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.

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



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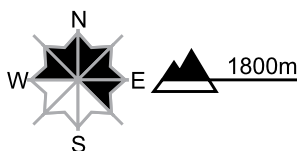
Region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Older snow drift accumulations are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes and generally at high altitude. They are covered with fresh snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. Single persons can release avalanches. These can release the weakly bonded old snow as well. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

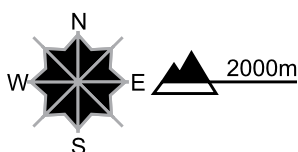
Region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the northerly wind precarious snow drift accumulations have formed. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The snow drift accumulations are to be bypassed in steep terrain. 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 at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Ski touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes full-depth avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

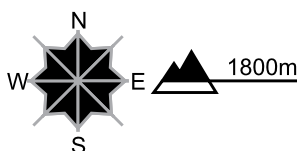
Region D

Level 2, moderate



Snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence. 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 at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Careful route selection is recommended.

Full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes full-depth avalanches are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 29.12.2013, 17:00

Snowpack

The storm-force southerly winds from Saturday transported the loosely packed old snow in some places. The snowdrift accumulations which resulted are prone to triggering to some extent. They have now been snowed over and are practically unrecognizable.

Deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover frequently consist of faceted snow crystals and are weak, particularly on north facing slopes at high altitudes. Avalanches can still be triggered from these deeply embedded layers. In some parts of southern Valais, central Grisons and the Engadine the likelihood of triggering is high and in case of an avalanche will probably sweep away the entire snowpack. In southern regions the layer of snow from Christmas is so deep that avalanches can only rarely be released in the weak, ground-level layers of snow.

Observed weather on Sunday, 29.12.2013

During the night there was precipitation. The snowfall level in northern regions was at 1600 m for a brief interval, then dropped to below 1000 m. During the day today skies were variably cloudy and in southern regions, sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday midday and Sunday morning, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- western Lower Valais, Grisons south of Anterior Rhine, Ticino: 20 to 30 cm
- remaining regions widespread: 10 to 20 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in western and northern regions -6 °C, in southeastern regions -4 °C

Wind

- light westerly winds, in the central Prealps and eastern sector of northern flank of the Alps at moderate velocity
- in southern regions, moderate velocity northerly winds over the course of the day

Weather forecast through Monday, 30.12.2013

It will be sunny. Towards evening in western regions, high altitude cloud will move in.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -4 °C

Wind

Light winds from varying directions

Outlook through Wednesday, 1.1.2014

Following a night of overcast skies, it will again become sunny from the west in the course of the morning on New Year's Eve. On New Year's Day it will be quite sunny in southern regions, generally overcast in all other regions of the Swiss Alps, accompanied by a bit of snowfall above approximately 1000 m. The avalanche danger is expected to diminish, but only very gradually in southern Valais and in Grisons in particular.