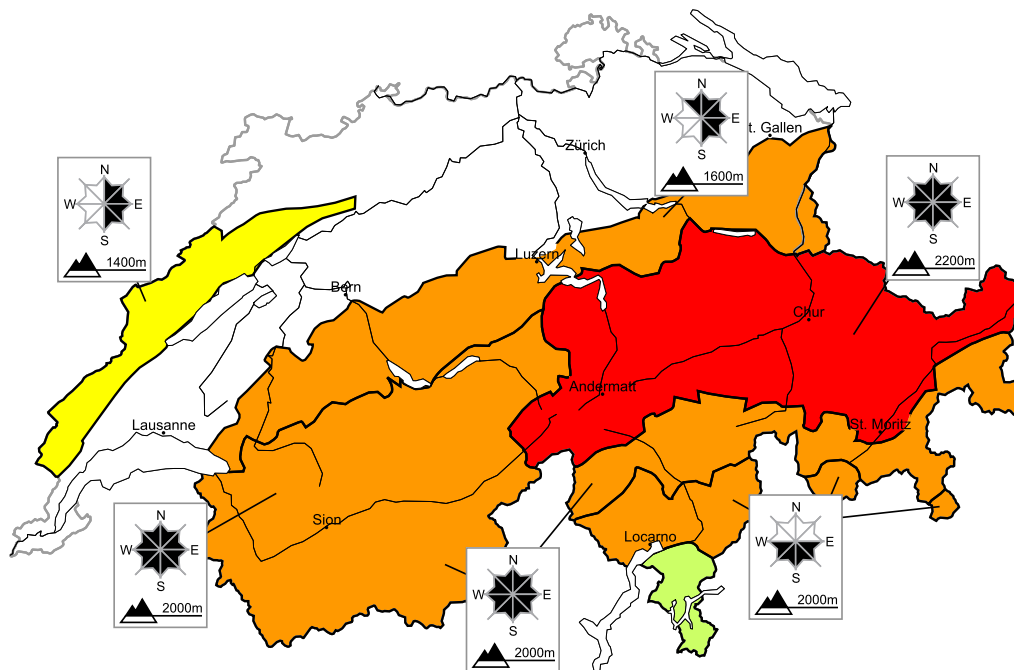


High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 11.12.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 11.12.2018, 17:00

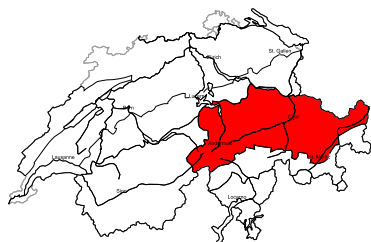
Avalanche danger

updated on 11.12.2018, 08:00



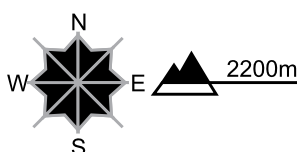
region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong northwesterly wind, large wind slabs formed. The fresh snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on steep north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Only isolated natural avalanches are to be expected, but they can be very large in some cases. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes remain critical. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

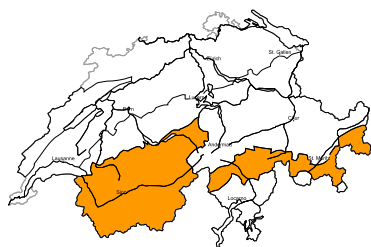
5 very high



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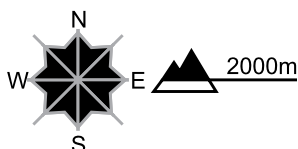
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong northwesterly wind, sometimes large wind slabs formed. The fresh snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on steep north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Only isolated natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

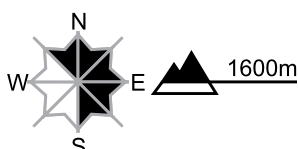
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

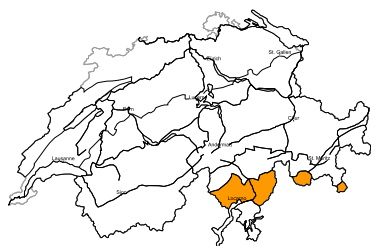


Danger description

The fresh wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. They can reach medium size. Ski touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

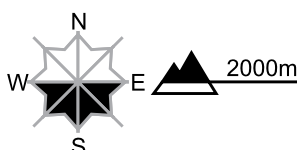
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

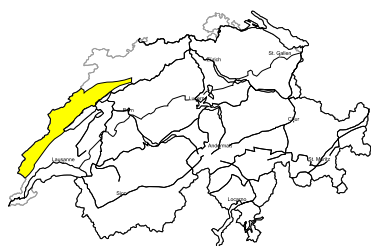


Danger description

As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed. These are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Ski touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

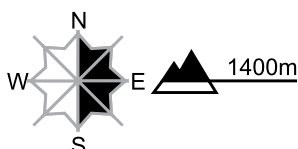
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

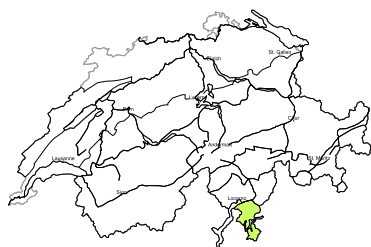


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong northwesterly wind, wind slabs formed. These are to be found in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They are to be bypassed especially in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

region F

Level 1, low



From a snow sport perspective, in most cases insufficient snow is lying. Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extreme terrain at elevated altitudes. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.12.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

Above the treeline the snow cover shows pronounced impact from wind. Knolls and crests are utterly windblown, wind-protected zones are filled to the brim with snow.

The fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts at higher altitudes of the Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn into the Bernina region, and southwards therefrom, have been deposited predominantly on top of a deep and stable old snow cover. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, the snow fell onto a shallow old snowpack whose surface contains softened layers of faceted (expansively metamorphosed) snow crystals. This is the case predominantly above approximately 2200 to 2400 m on north-facing slopes, but also in some places on west-facing and east-facing slopes. Avalanches can fracture in these weakened layers or also in the layers of fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts.

Observed weather on Monday, 10.12.2018

Skies were overcast and repeated bouts of snowfall were registered. The snowfall level lay at 800 to 1200 m. Only in Sotto Ceneri did it remain dry and quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Since Sunday afternoon in a zone extending from the Valais over the Gotthard region, in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps over northern and central Grisons into the Lower Engadine, there has been 30 to 60 cm of fresh snow registered. Thus, since the beginning of this period of precipitation on Friday evening, the following amounts of fresh snow have been registered above approximately 1600 m:

- Northern flank of the Alps (not including eastern Bernese Oberland), Lower Valais, northern Valais, Gotthard region as well as the central regions of Grisons from the Surselva over central Grisons into the northern Lower Engadine: 70 to 120 cm;
- eastern Bernese Oberland, southern Upper Valais, remaining regions of northern Ticino, remaining regions of Grisons not including the southern valleys of Grisons: 30 to 70 cm; further to the south, less, or else it remained dry;
- Jura: 10 to 30 cm above 1000 m.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in western and southern regions and -7 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

- In the Jura region and in the Alps in general above the treeline, strong to storm-strength northwesterly winds prevailed;
- in the Ticino, intermittently strong northerly winds extended down into the valleys.

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 11.12.2018

During the night, widespread snowfall extending down to low lying areas is anticipated, except on the southern flank of the Alps. During the course of the morning, the snowfall will come to an end starting in the west and moving eastwards. During the daytime in the Valais and in Ticino it will be sunny for the most part. In the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, it will also become sunny during the course of the day. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, skies will remain overcast until well into the afternoon.

Fresh snow

Between Monday afternoon and Tuesday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:

- Northern Alpine Ridge, northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine: 15 to 30 cm; possibly more in the Urner and Glarner Alps;
- southern Valais, northern flank of the Alps north of the Northern Alpine Ridge, remaining parts of Grisons, remaining parts of northern Ticino, Jura region: 10 to 20 cm;
- central Ticino, approximately 5 cm; in Sotto Ceneri it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in the southwestern regions and -10 °C in the northeastern regions.

Wind

Winds at high altitudes will be blowing at strong velocity from the northwest, in the Ticino northerly winds will extend down into the valleys; during the course of the day, winds will slacken off generally.

Outlook through Thursday, 13.12.2018

On Wednesday, it is expected to be predominantly sunny, on Thursday partly so. Temperatures will remain low. Winds are expected to slacken off significantly. The avalanche danger will incrementally decrease. However, for those engaging in snow sports, conditions to begin with will remain treacherous.