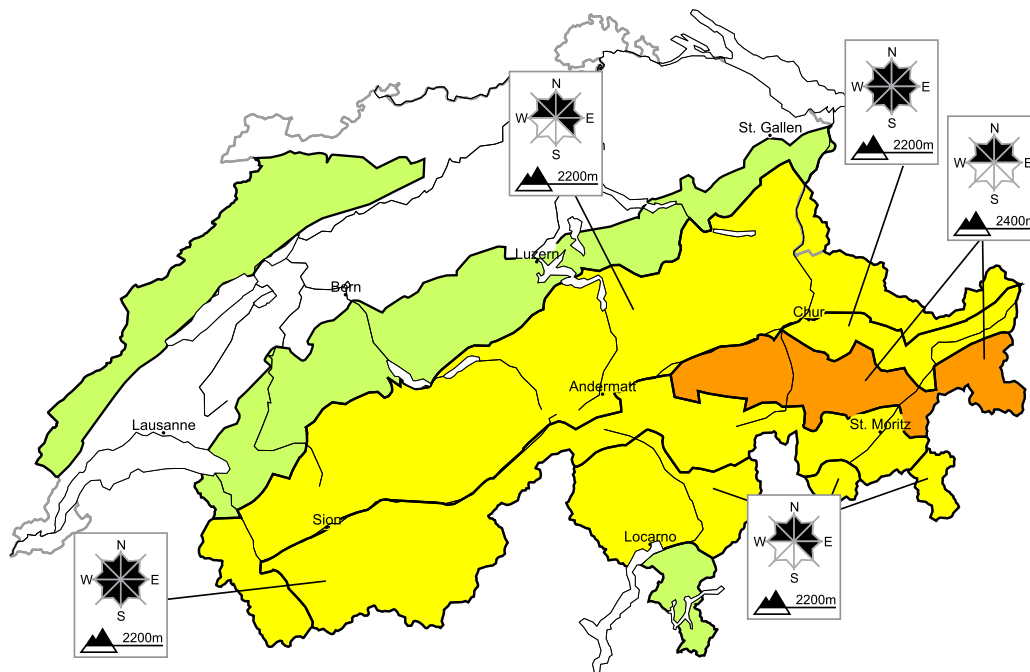
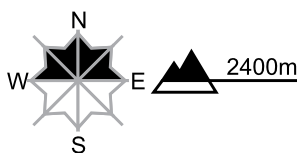


Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 14.12.2018, 17:00 / Next update: 15.12.2018, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 14.12.2018, 17:00

**region A****Level 3, considerable****Old snow****Avalanche prone locations****Danger description**

Avalanches can be released in the old snowpack especially in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. These can reach dangerously large size. Defensive route selection is recommended. In addition the mostly small wind slabs of Thursday are prone to triggering still. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

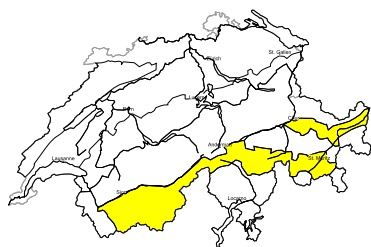
5 very high



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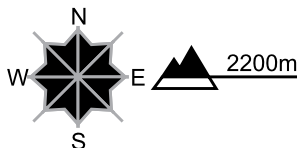
region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations

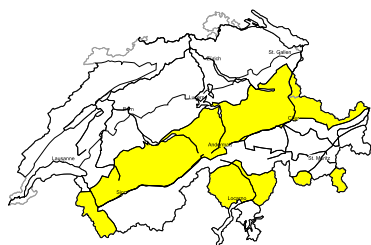


Danger description

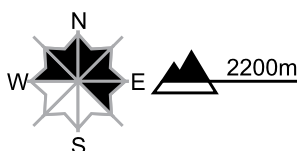
Weak layers in the old snowpack can still be released in some places in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Avalanches can reach dangerously large size. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep slopes above approximately 2400 m. In addition mostly small wind slabs will form adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas and in the high Alpine regions. Careful route selection and spacing between individuals are recommended.

region C

Level 2, moderate



Avalanche prone locations

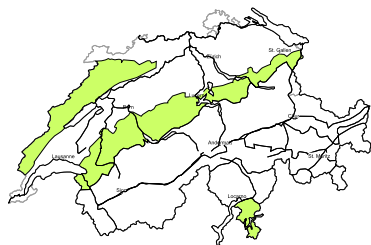


Danger description

The near-surface layers of the snowpack can still be released in some places, especially on very steep slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region D

Level 1, low



Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Even a small snow slide can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 14.12.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

Inside the snow cover, particularly on west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes above approximately 2400 m, there are deeply embedded weakened layers of faceted (expansively metamorphosed) snow crystals. These layers are well covered by fresher layers of snow in many places and can, in isolated cases, be triggered by persons. These avalanche prone locations are located in places where the snowpack is shallow, as well as in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, where the layers are not covered over by as much fresh snow. On south-facing slopes and in general below 2200 m, the snowpack layering is predominantly favourable.

Along the Main Alpine Ridge more than anywhere else, generally small-sized, easily triggered snowdrift accumulations will be generated at high altitudes on Saturday. In addition, the small-sized snowdrift accumulations from Thursday are still triggerable in some places.

On steep, sun-bathed grass-covered slopes, glide-snow avalanches continue to release.

Observed weather on Friday, 14.12.2018

Skies at night in western and northern regions were intermittently overcast, in the other regions of Switzerland skies were clear. During the daytime, it was sunny in the mountains. Only in the Jura region and along the Prealps did skies remain overcast in ways resembling high-altitude fog all day long.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -7 °C.

Wind

Winds at high altitudes during the night were blowing at moderate strength in some places, otherwise winds were light, from the southwest.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 15.12.2018

Nocturnal skies are expected to be clear. During the daytime, it will be sunny to start with in all regions of Switzerland. During the afternoon, clouds will move in from the west.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in western regions and -6 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

Winds at high altitudes will be blowing intermittently at moderate strength from northerly directions.

Outlook through Monday, 17.12.2018

On Saturday night, precipitation is expected to set in from the west. In the early phase the snowfall level will ascend, in northern regions up to nearly 1500 m. On Sunday, snowfall over widespread areas is anticipated, presumably the heaviest in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, as well as in the Lower Valais. On Monday, intermittent snowfall is expected in northern regions. In southern regions it will turn increasingly sunny as a result of northerly winds.

The avalanche danger will increase widespread on Sunday as a consequence of the snowfall and westerly winds which in some places will be blowing at strong velocity. On Monday, no significant change in avalanche danger levels is anticipated.