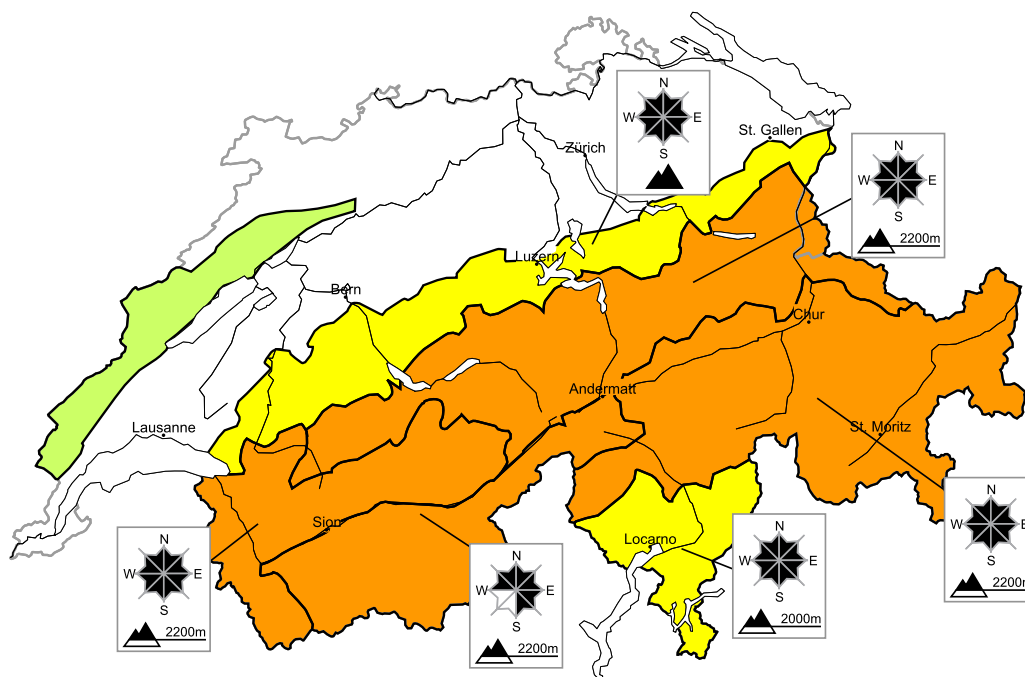


# As a consequence of stormy weather a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 22.12.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 22.12.2018, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 22.12.2018, 08:00



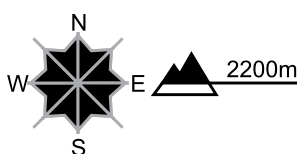
region A

Level 3, considerable



### Fresh snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong westerly wind, further wind slabs will form. The fresh snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single persons can release avalanches. Individual natural avalanches are possible, even large ones. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

### Wet and full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2200 m small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

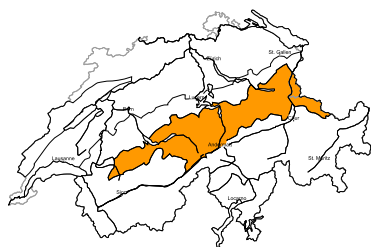
5 very high



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**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong westerly wind, further wind slabs will form. The fresh snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single persons can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

Below approximately 2200 m small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects.

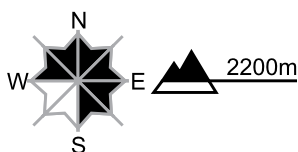
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of a strong westerly wind, further wind slabs will form. These are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They are to be avoided. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

Below approximately 2200 m small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects.



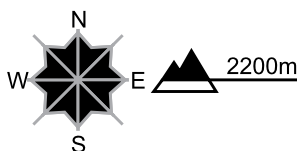
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached as the day progresses. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in near-surface layers, in particular by large additional loads. This applies in particular on very steep north facing slopes in Grisons.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

Below approximately 2200 m small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects.

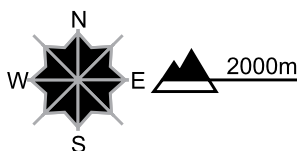
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of a strong to storm force northwesterly wind, wind slabs will form in particular above the tree line. These are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

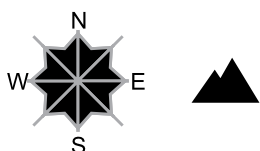
**region F**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wet avalanches**

**Avalanche prone locations**

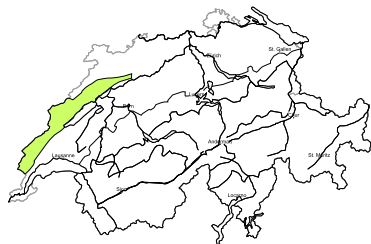


**Danger description**

On very steep slopes small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

**region G**

**Level 1, low**



**Wet avalanches**

Only a little snow is lying. The snowpack will be wet all the way through. Individual avalanche prone locations for wet avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain above approximately 1400 m. Mostly these are small.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.12.2018, 17:00

### Snowpack

As a consequence of strong to storm-strength westerly winds, the unbonded, loosely packed old snow and fresh snow will be intensively transported. In wind-protected terrain, snowdrift accumulations will frequently be deposited on top of unbonded surface layers of faceted snow crystals and are prone to triggering. In addition, there are weak layers deeply embedded inside the snowpack, particularly on west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. These layers are well covered over in many places. In isolated cases they can be triggered by large additional loading in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons more than anywhere else. On south-facing slopes and in general below 2200 m, the snowpack layering is predominantly favourable.

In the northern regions in particular, on very steep grass-covered slopes below approximately 2200 m, increasingly frequent glide-snow avalanches can once again be expected as a result of the rainfall.

### Observed weather on Friday, 21.12.2018

Excluding in the furthest southern regions where the sun was shining in some places, skies were heavily overcast by and large. Around midday in western regions, precipitation set in which rapidly spread out towards the east.

#### Fresh snow

The snowfall level swiftly ascended to approximately 2000 m. By Friday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow had been registered:

- western sectors of the northern Alpine Ridge and furthest western part of Lower Valais: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less.

#### Temperature

Temperatures rose significantly, at midday at 2000 m reaching levels of 0 °C in the northern regions and -4 °C in the southern regions.

#### Wind

Winds on Thursday night intensified significantly; winds during the daytime

- were blowing predominantly at strong to storm velocity from westerly to southwesterly directions;
- in the Ticino blowing at light strength from the south.

### Weather forecast through Saturday, 22.12.2018

In the northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy to heavily overcast and, particularly on Friday evening and during the night on Friday, precipitation is anticipated which will be persistent, subsequently taking showerlike form. In central Grisons, in the Upper Engadine and on the southern flank of the Alps, it will remain dry for the most part. In central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, it will be predominantly sunny during the daytime.

#### Fresh snow

The snowfall level is expected to descend on Friday night from approximately 2200 m down to approximately 1400 m. Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected:

- northern Alpine Ridge, furthest western part of Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Valais, remaining parts of northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm;
- remaining parts of Grisons Ticino: less than 5 cm; or else it will remain dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in northern regions and +2 °C in southern regions.

#### Wind

Winds will be blowing at strong to storm velocity from westerly directions, in the southern regions and in Grisons, gradually shifting to northwesterly.

**Outlook** through Monday, 24.12.2018

On Sunday and on Christmas Eve, skies are expected to be heavily overcast and precipitation is anticipated over widespread areas, especially between Sunday afternoon and midday on Christmas Eve. The snowfall level will ascend to approximately 2000 m to begin with, subsequently descend down towards 1000 to 1400 m on Christmas Eve. Only in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri will the weather remain dry and rather sunny. Winds will be blowing at strong to storm velocity from the northwest. Avalanche danger is expected to increase over widespread areas, significantly so on the Main Alpine Ridge and northwards therefrom.