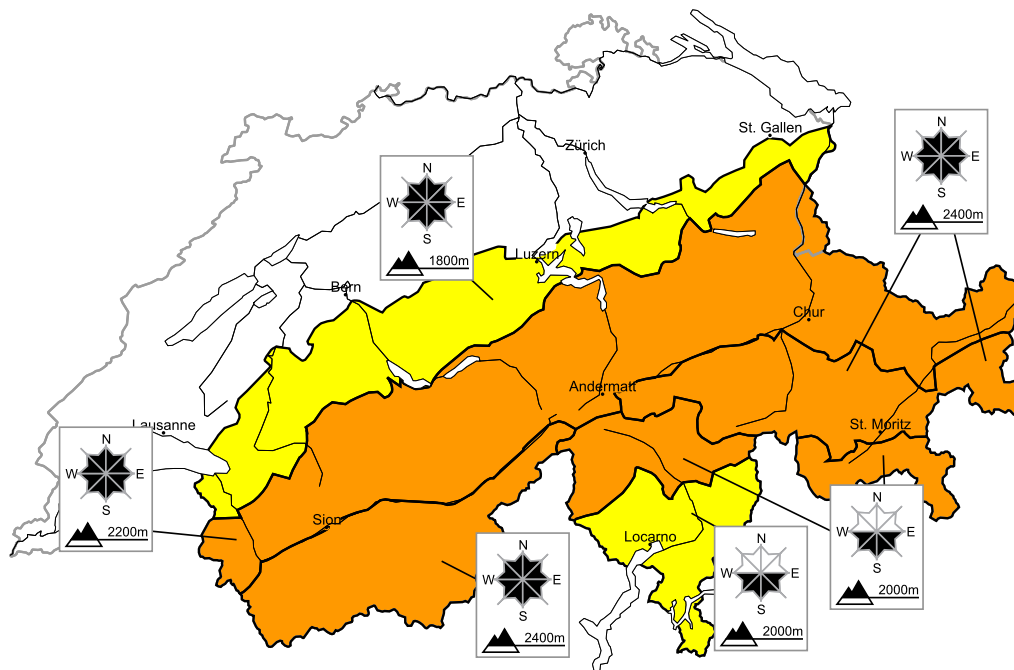


At elevated altitudes a considerable avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 25.12.2018, 08:00 / Next update: 25.12.2018, 17:00

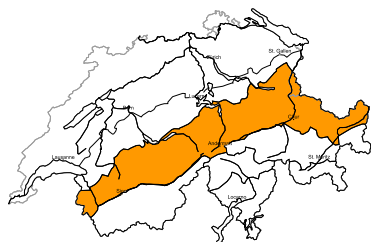
Avalanche danger

updated on 25.12.2018, 08:00



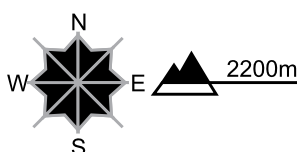
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow of the last two days are in some cases still prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. Single persons can release avalanches. These can reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Gliding avalanches

In all aspects gliding avalanches are possible in particular between approximately 2000 and 2400 m.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

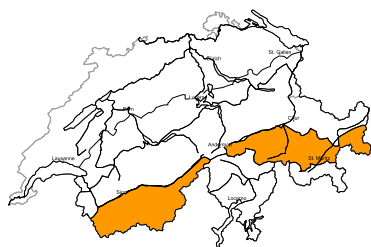
5 very high



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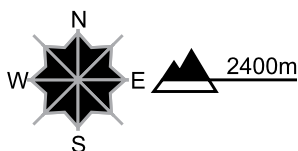
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

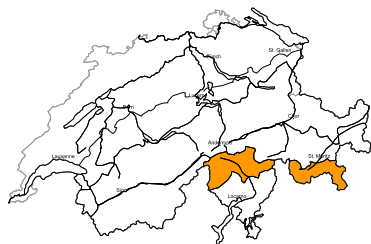
The fresh snow and wind slabs of the last two days are prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. Single persons can release avalanches. These can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Gliding avalanches

In all aspects gliding avalanches are possible in particular between approximately 2000 and 2400 m.

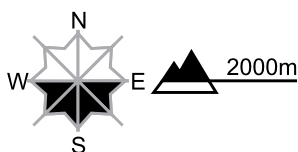
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

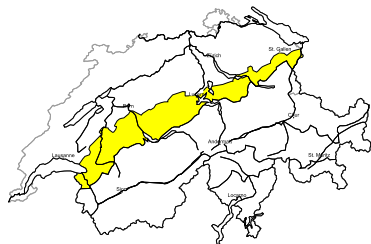


Danger description

The fresh wind slabs can be released even by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach medium size. The wind slabs are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. They are to be avoided in steep terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

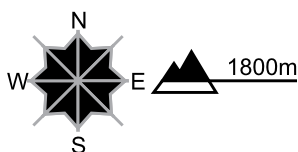
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In particular in the vicinity of peaks mostly small wind slabs formed. These are prone to triggering. They are to be avoided especially in very 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.

Gliding avalanches

In all aspects small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible.

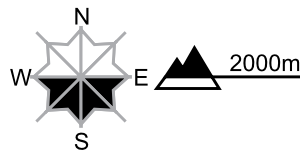
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations





Danger description

Fresh wind slabs represent the main danger. These are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very 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.


Danger levels

 1 low

 2 moderate

 3 consider.

 4 high

 5 very high



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Snowpack and weather

updated on 24.12.2018, 17:00

Snowpack

The snowpack is shallower below 2200 m and deeper at higher altitudes than is usual at this time of year. As a consequence of the heavy rain, the snowpack has become moist on the surface up to approximately 2400 m, and thoroughly wet below approximately 2000 to 2200 m, everywhere except in the far south. Not until the precipitation had all but ceased, was snow still falling down to approximately 1300 m. Avalanches, some of which were very large and flowed down to the high-altitude valleys, were reported in Valais and Grisons in particular. The cessation of snowfall and the significant fall in temperatures during the clear night will enable the snowpack to bond quickly so that, apart from gliding avalanches, barely any further natural avalanches are expected on Christmas Day. Fresh snow drift accumulations and, in the regions where relatively little precipitation has fallen, all of the freshly fallen snow, can still be released easily by people. Gliding avalanches remain a possibility, in particular between approximately 2000 and 2400 m.

Observed weather on Monday, 24.12.2018

Except in the far south, it was very cloudy and the sometimes storm force wind was accompanied by heavy and abundant precipitation. In the afternoon it quickly became dry from the northeast and, at elevated altitudes, sunny in some cases. On Sunday afternoon the snowfall level rose quickly to approximately 2200 to 2400 m; it did not fall back to approximately 1300 m until the precipitation had almost ceased.

Fresh snow

In the period from Sunday afternoon until the precipitation ceased on the afternoon of Christmas Eve, the following amounts of heavy snow fell above approximately 2500 m:

- Northern Alpine ridge from Les Diablerets to Alpstein, northern Grisons and northern Lower Engadine: 40 to 60 cm, but up to 80 cm in the Glarus Alps
- Remaining regions of eastern Lower Valais, Upper Valais, the Gotthard region and of central Grisons; northern Upper Engadine; southern Lower Engadine: 30 to 50 cm
- Elsewhere: smaller quantities, none in the far south
- In the Jura, the precipitation fell almost exclusively as rain

From the morning, the following amounts of snow fell below approximately 2000 m: up to 20 cm on the northern flank of the Alps, and up to more than 30 cm in the Gotthard region and parts of Grisons.

Temperature

After a warm night, it became cooler from the northeast during the day. Temperature at 2000 m:

- During the night approximately +2 to +3 °C
- At midday between +1 °C in the southwest and -6 °C in the northeast

Wind

- During the night, strong to storm force from the west.
- In the morning the wind veered northerly and then eased in strength. It remained strong in the afternoon only in the south.

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 25.12.2018

The weather in the mountains will be sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

After a cool night, it will become warmer again from the west as the day progresses. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be between +1 °C in the west and -5 °C in the east

Wind

The wind will be northerly:

- Moderate to strong in the east at elevated altitudes and generally in the south
- Otherwise light to moderate

Outlook through Thursday, 27.12.2018

In the mountains it will be mostly sunny and mild. On Thursday there will be some high-altitude cloudbanks in the north. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. Individual gliding avalanches can still occur below approximately 2400 m.