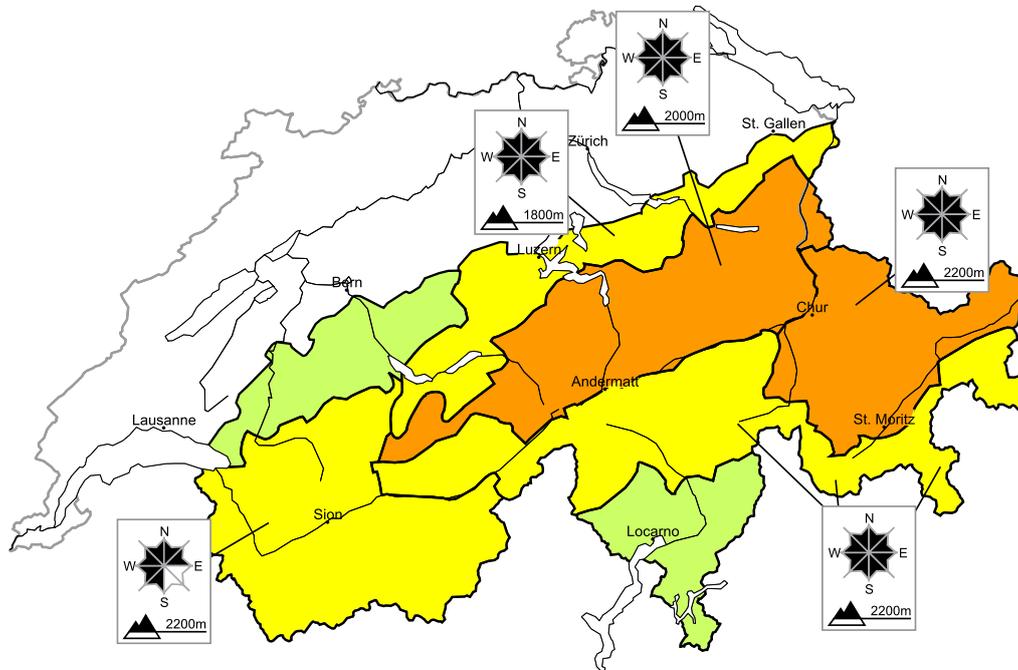


In the north and in the east a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 3.1.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 3.1.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 3.1.2019, 08:00



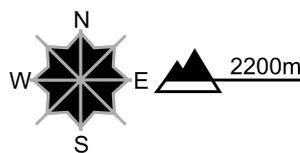
region A

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force northerly wind, sometimes large wind slabs formed. They are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches.

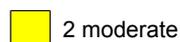
Isolated avalanche prone weak layers exist deeper in the old snowpack. These avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes above approximately 2400 m. In particular here avalanches can be triggered in the old snow and reach large size in some cases.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Danger levels



1 low



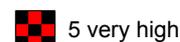
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



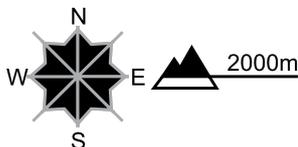
region B

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force northerly wind, sometimes large wind slabs formed. They are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can reach large size in isolated cases.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

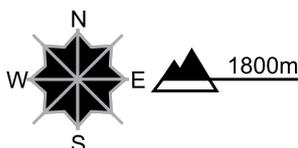
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh wind slabs represent the main danger. They are rather small but can in some cases be released easily. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They will increase with altitude.

Careful route selection is important.

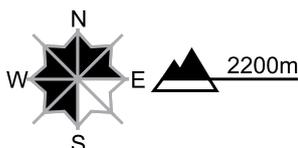
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are mostly only small. They are to be found adjacent to ridgelines in all aspects. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.

Valais: Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size, especially on very steep north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

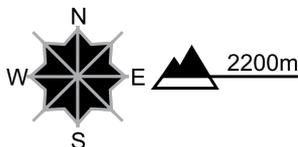
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. They are mostly only small but can in some cases be released easily. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

Grisons: Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size, especially on very steep north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

region F

Level 1, low



Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on extremely steep slopes. Fresh wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Even a small snow slide can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.
Below approximately 2200 m: In steep terrain there is a danger of falling on the hard crust.

region G

Level 1, low



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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 2.1.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of fresh snow and storm-strength winds, snowdrift accumulations have formed anew. These drifted masses are medium to large-sized, in isolated cases also large-sized, in the major areas of precipitation in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, as well as in the northern parts of Grisons. They are expected to grow somewhat further in magnitude. In the remaining regions of Switzerland the drifts are predominantly small-sized. In places, the freshly generated snowdrifts are prone to triggering.

In the southern Valais and in Grisons more than anywhere else, furthermore, in isolated cases in the middle and lower sections of the snow cover there are weakened layers which are still prone to triggering in isolated cases. These avalanche prone locations are found primarily on very steep north-facing slopes above 2400 m. There, isolated avalanches - including dangerously large-sized avalanches - were triggered by persons in the final week of the old year. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, these weak layers are well covered in general, or else are less threatening. Below approximately 2200 m, the more deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover are well consolidated for the most part. Below 1500 m there is only a small amount of snow. In the Jura region there is barely any snow in outlying terrain away from the ski runs.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 02.01.2019

In the northern regions and in Grisons, there was snowfall registered down to low lying areas. In the southern Valais there were rather extended bright intervals. In central Ticino and in Sotto Ceneri, it was predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

- Northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland as far as Liechtenstein, northern Tavetsch, northern Grisons, Engadine north of the Inn: 10 to 20 cm; in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons as much as 30 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, remaining parts of central Grisons, Engadine south of the Inn and the southern valleys of Grisons: 5 to 10 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: less; or else no fresh snow.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -11 °C in northern and in eastern regions and -8 °C in western and in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds were blowing at strong to storm strength over widespread areas from northerly directions.
- in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Prealps, winds were blowing at light to moderate strength from northerly directions.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 03.01.2019

On Wednesday night, the snowfall will taper off. During the daytime on Thursday, skies in eastern regions will be partially overcast. From place to place, a small amount of snowfall is possible. Otherwise it will be predominantly sunny and cold.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:

- Northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland as far as Liechtenstein, northern and central Grisons, Engadine north of the Inn: 5 to 15 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: only a few centimetres; in the furthestmost western regions, in the Valais and in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps it will remain dry for the most part.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -13 °C in eastern regions, -10 °C in western regions and -8 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds at high altitude and in general in southern regions will be blowing at strong to storm-strength from northerly directions;
- in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, a moderate to strong-velocity breeze wind will be blowing.

Outlook through Saturday, 05.01.2019

On Friday in northeastern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. In western and southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. On Saturday in northern regions, snowfall is expected over widespread areas. In southern regions it will be partly sunny. At high altitudes and in general in southern regions, a strong to storm-strength northerly wind will continue to blow.

The avalanche danger levels are expected to decrease somewhat in eastern regions on Friday, then increase on Saturday again. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.