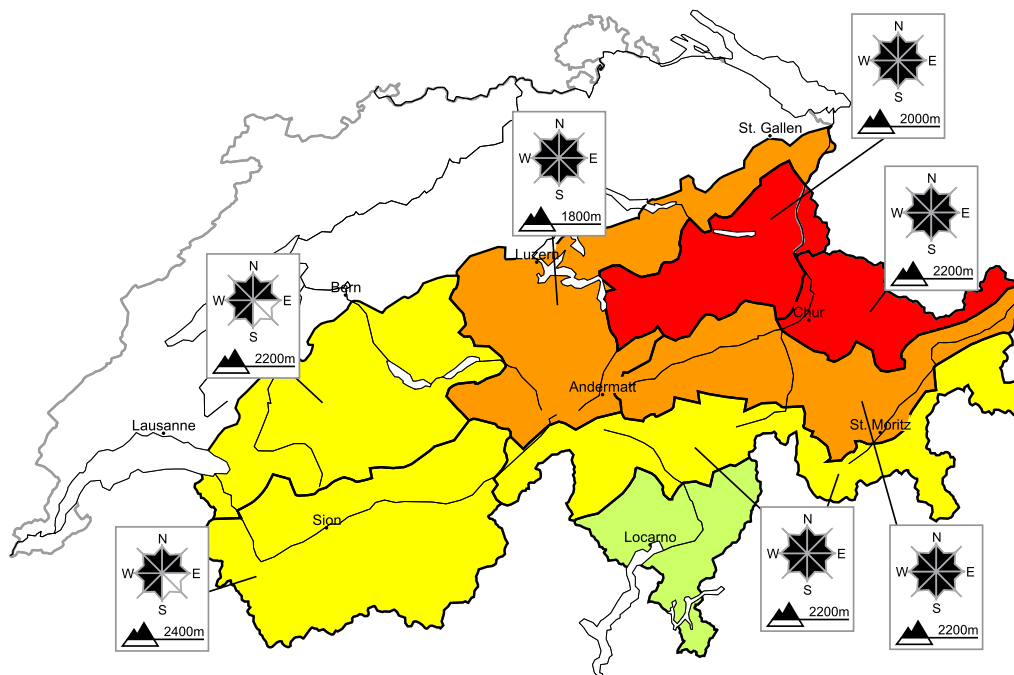


# In the north and in the east a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 6.1.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 6.1.2019, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 6.1.2019, 08:00



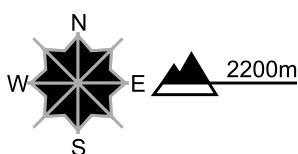
**region A**

**Level 4, high**



**Fresh snow, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

More snow than expected has fallen. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very critical. Single persons can release avalanches easily. Especially above approximately 2400 m these can penetrate even deep layers and reach large size. Natural avalanches are to be expected. These can in isolated cases reach very large size. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered occasionally.

**Danger levels**

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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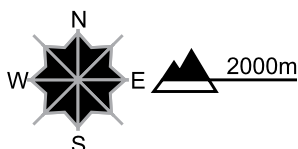
**region B**

**Level 4, high**



**Fresh snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Danger level 4 (high) will be reached in the late morning. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very critical. As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong northerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Single persons can release avalanches easily. Medium-sized and large natural avalanches are to be expected. From starting zones at higher altitudes individual very large avalanches are possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered occasionally.

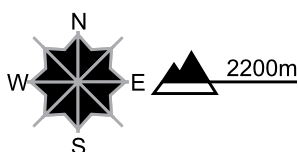
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

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

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

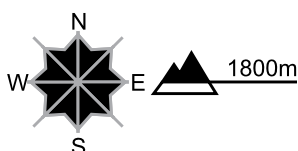
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of fresh snow and a sometimes strong wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep slopes. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

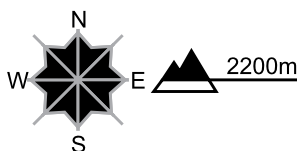
**region E**

**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.

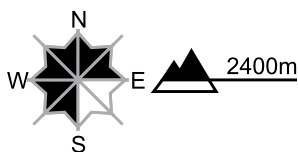
**region F**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

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

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

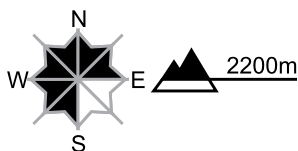
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

**region G**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Avalanche prone locations**



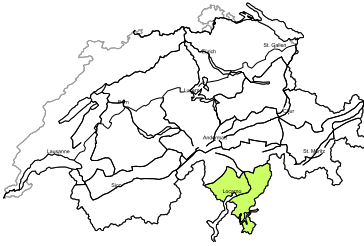
**Danger description**

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found also adjacent to ridgelines in all aspects. They will increase with altitude.

Below approximately 2200 m: In steep terrain there is a danger of falling on the hard crust.

**region H**


**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.

**Danger levels**

 1 low

 2 moderate

 3 consider.

 4 high

 5 very high



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## Snowpack and weather

updated on 5.1.2019, 17:00

### Snowpack

The highly varied layers of snowdrifts generated in the final phase of the week coming to an end are still prone to triggering in some places. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in the northern regions of Grisons these layers are medium-to-large sized. Wherever the snowpack surface has not been influenced by winds, it is still loosely-packed. In the remaining regions of Switzerland the snowdrift accumulations tend to be relatively small-sized. The fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts in northern and eastern regions have been deposited on top of these highly varied, in some places unfavourable layers of snow nearest to the uppermost surface and are easily triggered. In addition, particularly in the southern Valais and in Grisons, there are older weak layers in the middle and lower sections of the snow cover which in isolated cases are still prone to triggering. These danger zones are found primarily on very steep north-facing slopes above 2400 m. In the remaining regions of Switzerland these weak layers are generally well covered or are less threatening. Below approximately 2200 m, the more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack are predominantly well consolidated.

Below 1500 m there is only a small amount of snow on the ground. In the Jura region there is hardly any snow.

### Observed weather on Saturday, 05.01.2019

In the northern regions, skies were heavily overcast and on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, snowfall set in already in the early morning hours. On the southern flank of the Alps it was predominantly sunny.

#### Fresh snow

The snowfall level was below 1000 m. By Saturday afternoon the following amounts of fresh snow were registered:

- central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, from northern Grisons into Samnaun: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, less; or else it remained dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in northern regions and 0 °C in southern regions.

#### Wind

Northerly winds prevailed

- in the northern sector of the Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge, as well as in Grisons, blowing at predominantly strong velocity, also at storm strength intermittently in Grisons in particular;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, frequently at moderate strength at high altitudes.

### Weather forecast through Sunday, 06.01.2019

In the northern regions, skies will be heavily overcast, accompanied by snowfall in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in the northern parts of Grisons more than anywhere else. In the Valais it will be partly sunny; in central Ticino and in Sotto Ceneri predominantly so.

#### Fresh snow

The snowfall level will lie between 500 and 700 m. The following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated by Sunday afternoon:

- eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Prättigau: 40 to 60 cm;
- eastern part of the Bernese Oberland, central sector of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of northern Grisons, eastern parts of central Grisons, Engadine north of the Inn 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining parts of the Bernese Oberland, of the Gotthard region, of central Grisons and of the Engadine: 10 to 20 cm;
- further to the west and to the south, less; or else, it will remain dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in northern regions and -2 °C in southern regions.

#### Wind

Northerly winds will prevail

- in the Valais, blowing at predominantly moderate to strong velocity;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, blowing at strong to storm strength.

**Outlook** through Tuesday, 08.01.2019

**Monday**

On the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, skies will be heavily overcast to start with. Particularly in the eastern regions, there will accrue a small amount of snowfall by midday. In the Bernese Oberland and in high alpine regions in general, skies are expected to brighten during the morning hours, and during the course of the afternoon in the eastern regions. In the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps it will be predominantly sunny. The northerly winds will slacken off during the course of the day. For all snow sports in outlying terrain, avalanche danger levels will remain critical in the major areas of precipitation, away from secured and marked ski runs.

**Tuesday**

Following a night of generally clear skies in the mountains, cloud cover will swiftly move in from the north during the early morning hours. During the daytime in northern regions, skies will frequently be heavily overcast. Snowfall is expected to set in during the morning. In central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, it will remain predominantly sunny. The northwesterly winds will be blowing at strong to storm strength. The avalanche danger levels will increase once again during the course of the morning hours.