Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 7 January 2019

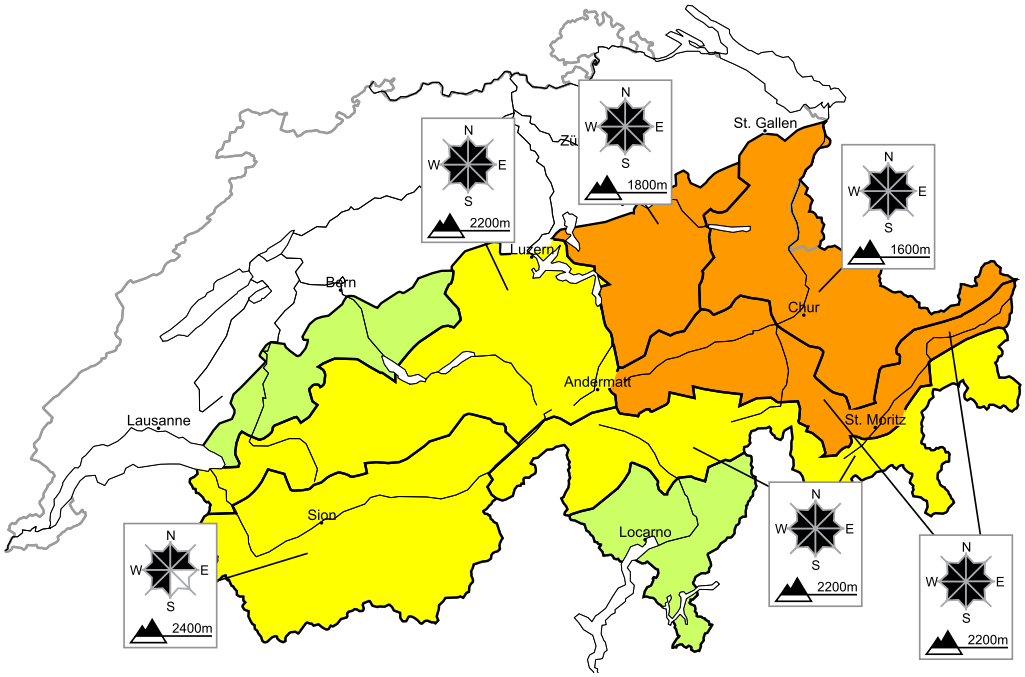
7.1.2019, 07:48

In the north and in the east a critical avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 7.1.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 7.1.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

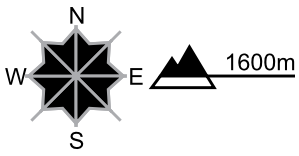
updated on 7.1.2019, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are critical. The fresh snow and wind slabs of the last few days can be released easily, even by a single winter sport participant,. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.
Grisons: Especially above approximately 2400 m avalanches can penetrate even deep layers and reach large size. This applies in particular on steep north facing slopes.

Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 consider. 4 high 5 very high

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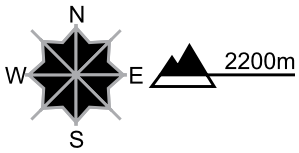
region B — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



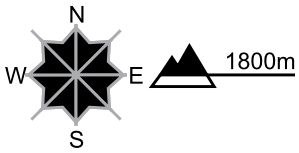
Danger description

Wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Whumpfing 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 C — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



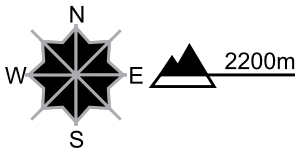
Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. Caution is to be exercised in particular on steep slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region D — Level 2, moderate

Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Wind slabs represent the main danger. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.
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.

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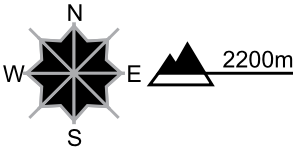
region E — Level 2, moderate

Avalanche prone locations



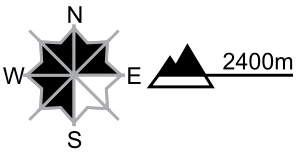
Danger description

The near-surface layers of the snowpack can be released in some places, especially on very steep slopes. Mostly avalanches are rather small. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Backcountry touring calls for meticulous route selection.

region F — Level 2, moderate

Wind slabs, old snow

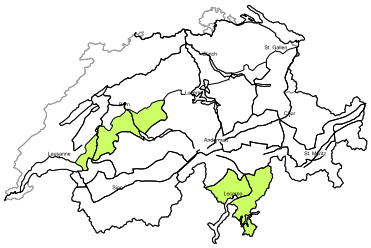
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Wind slabs are mostly small and can only be released in isolated cases. The number and size of avalanche prone locations 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 careful route selection.

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.
In steep terrain there is a danger of falling on the hard crust.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 6.1.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

The fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, as well as in Grisons, have been deposited on top of an old snowpack which in some places has unfavourable surface-level layers. Fresh snow and fresh snowdrifts can easily be triggered. Snowdrift accumulations are often formidably large-sized in these regions. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, only small-sized snowdrift accumulations were formed.
In addition, particularly in the southern Valais and in Grisons in the middle and lower sections of the snowpack, older weakened layers are still prone to triggering in some places. 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 less threatening. Below approximately 2200 m, the more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack are predominantly well consolidated.
On the northern flank of the Alps the formation of a variety of crusts has been observed, including at high altitudes. These crusts were subsequently covered by fresh snow during the daytime.

Observed weather on Sunday, 06.01.2019

In northern regions skies were heavily overcast, interspersed with bright intervals in the Valais. On the southern flank of the Alps it was predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level lay below 1000 m. Between Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered:

- Liechtenstein, northern Prättigau, Silvretta, Samnaun: 50 to 70 cm;
- Alpstein, St. Gallen and Glarner Alps, southern Prättigau, Schanfigg, Albulatal, Davos, remaining parts of Lower Engadine north of the Inn: 30 to 50 cm;
- furthermost eastern parts of the Bernese Oberland, central and remaining parts of the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, central Grisons: 10 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less than 10 cm; in the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps, it remained dry for the most part.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in eastern regions, -4 °C in western regions and -1 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds were northerly,

- on the northern Alpine Ridge, on the Main Alpine Ridge and in Grisons, blowing predominantly at moderate to strong velocity, intermittently also at storm strength;
- in the other regions of Switzerland at light to moderate strength.

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Weather forecast through Monday, 07.01.2019

On the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, skies will be heavily overcast to start with. Particularly in the eastern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated until midday. In the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, skies are expected to brighten up during the course of the morning, in the eastern regions, during the course of the afternoon. In the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps it will be rather sunny.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level will be below 1000 m. The following amounts are anticipated:

- central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons and northern Lower Engadine: 5 to 10 cm; in the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps as much as 15 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, less; or else, it will remain dry.

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds will be northerly,

- blowing at moderate strength in western regions and at high altitudes;
- at high altitudes in eastern regions and in general in southern regions blowing initially at strong velocity, subsequently slackening off during the course of the day

Outlook through Wednesday, 09.01.2019

On both days on the Main Alpine Ridge and northwards therefrom, skies will be heavily overcast. Snowfall is expected, on Tuesday the focal point will be in the eastern regions. On Wednesday, persistent and heavy snowfall is anticipated on the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else. The wind will be blowing once again at strong velocity from westerly to northwesterly directions. In the furthermost southern regions it will be rather sunny as a consequence of the northerly foehn wind. Avalanche danger levels will increase over widespread areas on Wednesday in particular.