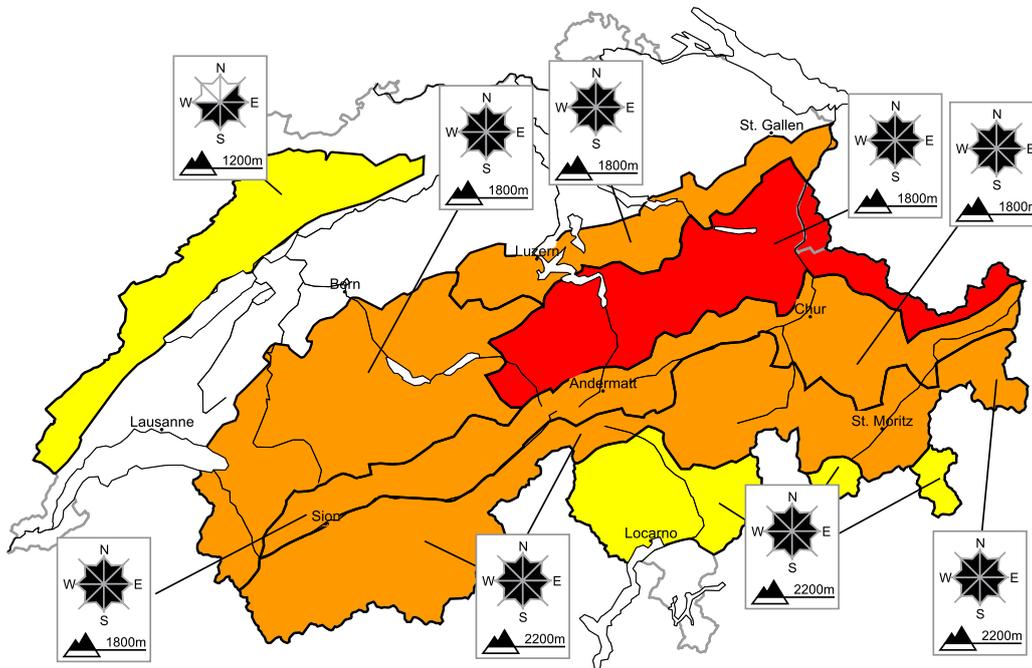


High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 10.1.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 10.1.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 10.1.2019, 08:00

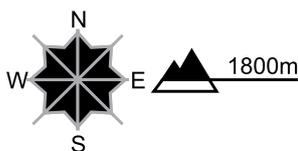


region A **Level 4, high**



Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

A lot of fresh snow: With the end of the intensive snowfall, the avalanche activity will decrease. Only isolated natural avalanches are to be expected, but they can be very large. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered in some cases. Slides can occur on cut slopes.

The conditions are very critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

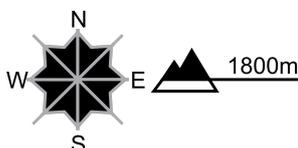
region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

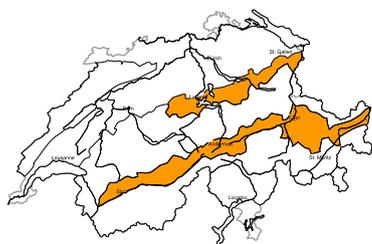


Danger description

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Avalanches can in many places be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

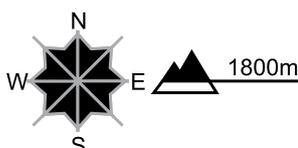
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow represent the main danger. Only isolated natural avalanches are to be expected. Avalanches can in many places be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Slides can occur on cut slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

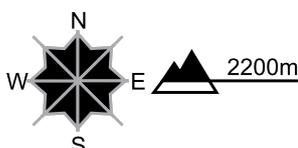
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong wind, wind slabs formed. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. This applies in particular on very steep north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

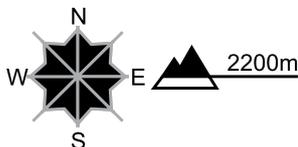
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Wind slabs represent the main danger. They are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. At elevated altitudes avalanche prone locations are more widespread and the danger is slightly greater. The wind slabs 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.

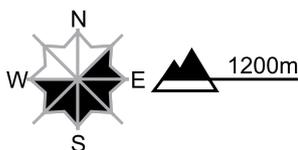
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Wind slabs are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They are small but can be released easily. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Even a snow slide can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 9.1.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

On Wednesday, as a consequence of heavy snowfall and strong-velocity northwesterly winds particularly in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps as well as in northern Grisons, large-sized, prone-to-triggering snowdrift accumulations were formed. These drifted masses are continuing to grow in frequency and magnitude at high altitudes. Both fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts were deposited to some extent on top of an unfavourable snowpack surface. In the western and central sectors of the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else, there are crusts and weakened layers embedded inside the snowpack which if the weight of fresh snow on top of them becomes too great can fracture and break away. In the southern Valais and in Grisons in particular, avalanches can fracture down to deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack in isolated cases and subsequently grow to large size. Avalanches can sweep away the still loosely bonded snow along the avalanche release pathways.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 09.01.2019

Skies were heavily overcast. There was snowfall registered down to low lying zones over widespread areas. The snowfall on the northern Alpine Ridge and in Prättigau was persistent and intermittently intensive. In the furthestmost southern regions it remained sunny and dry.

Fresh snow

Since the beginning of this period of precipitation on Monday night, the following amounts of fresh snow have been registered above 1500 m:

- northern flank of the Alps east of Interlaken not including the Gotthard region: 50 to 80 cm;
- remaining parts of the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps not including Chablais, northern Valais, Gotthard region, northern Grisons, Samnaun: 30 to 50 cm;
- Chablais, southern Valais not including the valleys of Visp and not including the Simplon region, central Grisons, remaining parts of Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm;
- Jura: 20 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres; or else it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in northern regions -10 °C and in southern regions -7 °C.

Wind

Winds were northerly to northwesterly: in eastern regions and in general at high altitudes blowing at strong to storm strength; elsewhere blowing at moderate to strong velocity.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 10.01.2019

During the night, skies will be heavily overcast, and snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. In the western and inneralpine regions, the snowfall will come to an end during the early morning hours; in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, as well as in northern Grisons, a modest amount of snowfall will continue throughout the day. During the daytime, bright intervals are expected in the Valais. In the furthestmost southern regions it will remain dry and, as a consequence of the northerly winds, become quite sunny.

Fresh snow

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

- central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren, northern Prättigau: 20 to 30 cm;
- western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, Urseren, remaining parts of northern Grisons, eastern part of Jura region: 10 to 20 cm;
- Valais, northern Ticino, central Grisons, Engadine, western part of Jura region: 5 cm;
- central Ticino, Sotto Ceneri: it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -11 °C.

Wind

Winds will be blowing at moderate strength, at strong velocity on the southern flank of the Alps and in general at high altitude, from the north to northeast.

Outlook through Saturday, 12.01.2019

In the northern regions, skies will be heavily overcast for the most part. A small amount of intermittent snowfall is anticipated, particularly on the northern flank of the Alps. In the inneralpine regions, brighter skies are expected. In the southern regions on Friday, strong-velocity northerly winds will bring about partly sunny weather, on Saturday skies will be overcast.

The avalanche danger is expected to decrease. However, in outlying terrain away from secured and marked ski runs, the situation will remain critical, particularly on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern and central Grisons.