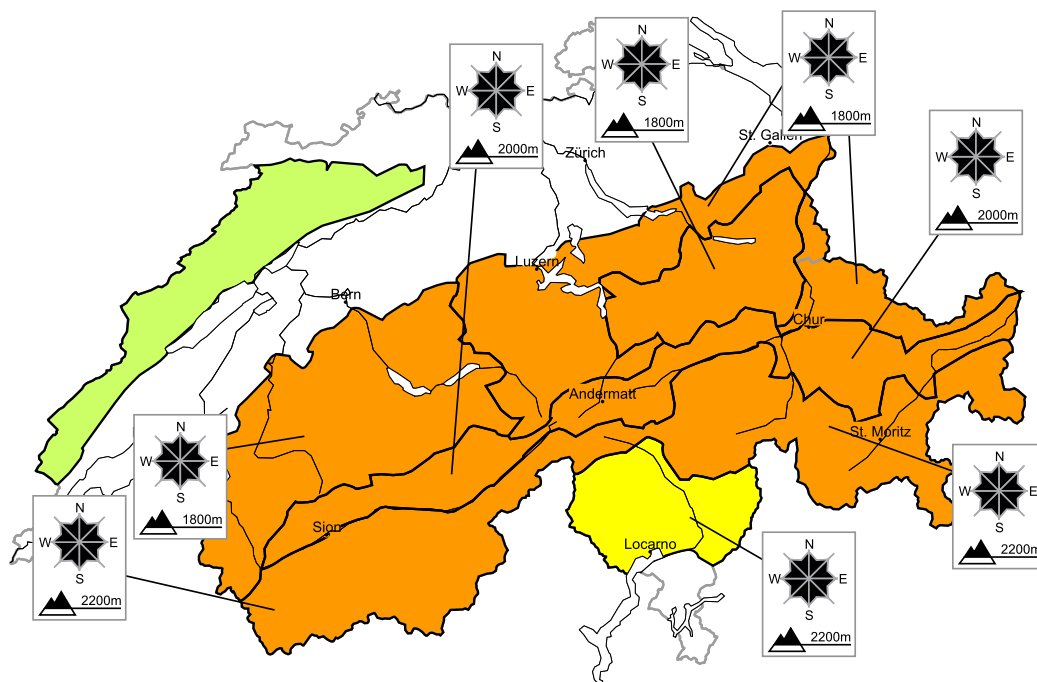


For those venturing off piste a precarious avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 11.1.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 11.1.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 11.1.2019, 08:00



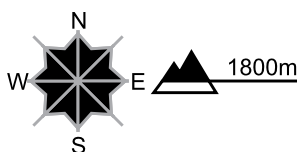
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

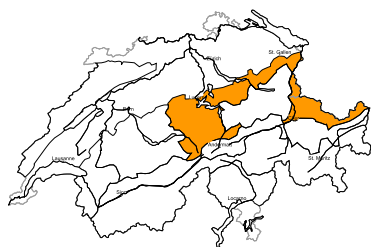
Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow of the last few days represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Some natural avalanches are still possible. These can in very isolated cases penetrate deep layers and reach very large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Gliding avalanches

On very steep grassy slopes small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 1800 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow of the last few days represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

On very steep grassy slopes small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 1800 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

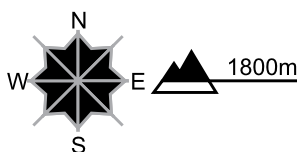
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

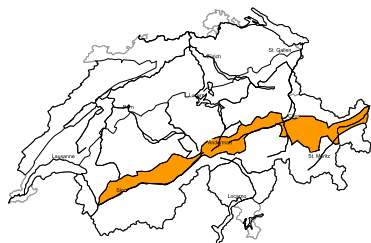
Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the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

Gliding avalanches

On very steep grassy slopes small gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 1800 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

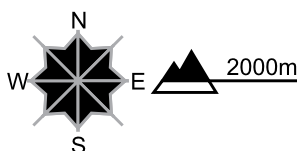
region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

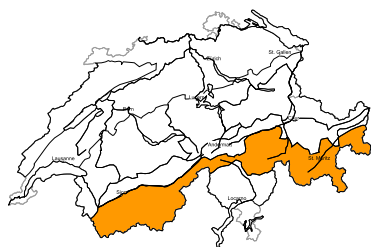
The fresh snow and wind slabs of the last few days represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

On very steep grassy slopes small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 1800 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

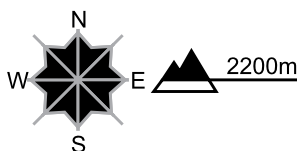
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

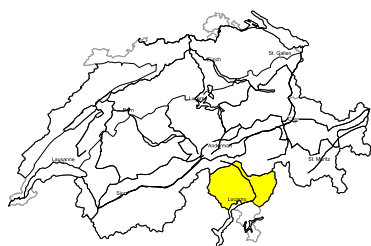


Danger description

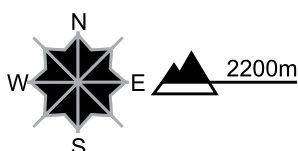
The sometimes fresh snow-covered wind slabs of the last few days represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region F

Level 2, moderate



Avalanche prone locations

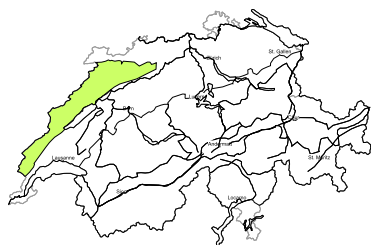


Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some cases be released in near-surface layers. At elevated altitudes avalanche prone locations are more widespread and the danger is slightly greater. 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 G

Level 1, low



Wind slabs

The wind slabs of the last few days are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in extremely steep terrain. Even a snow slide can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.1.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

The thick layers of fresh snow and snowdrift accumulations of the last few days which formed on the northern flank of the Alps and in parts of northern Grisons are consolidating. Especially in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, these layers have been deposited on top of an unfavourable snowpack surface inside of which crusts and weakened layers have formed. In those places, avalanches can be triggered in these weak layers and sweep along the entire mass of fresh snow and snowdrifts with them.

On steep, grass-covered slopes, particularly in the areas where snowfall has been heaviest on the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and in the northern part of Lower Engadine, glide-snow avalanches are possible.

Observed weather on Thursday, 10.01.2019

During the night on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, there was snowfall down to low lying areas. In the Valais, on the southern flank of the Alps and in southern Grisons, nocturnal skies were partially clear. During the daytime in northeastern regions, there was a small amount of additional snowfall, in the other regions of Switzerland it was partly sunny and dry.

Fresh snow

In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, there was an additional 20 to 40 cm of fresh snow registered between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon. Thus, all in all, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow have been registered since the beginning of this period of precipitation on Monday night above 1500 m:

- northern flank of the Alps east of Interlaken not including the Gotthard region: 80 to 100 cm;
- remaining parts of the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps not including Chablais, northern Valais, Gotthard region, northern Grisons, Samnaun: 40 to 60 cm;
- Chablais, southern Valais not including valleys of Visp and not including Simplon region, central Grisons, remaining parts of Lower Engadine: 15 to 30 cm;
- Jura region: 20 to 40 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 -11 °C; and in southern regions, -7 °C.

Wind

Winds were blowing from northerly directions:

- at intermittently strong velocity during the night in eastern and in southern regions, as well as in general at high altitudes, otherwise blowing at moderate strength;
- blowing at moderate strength during the daytime in southern regions, elsewhere predominantly at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Friday, 11.01.2019

In the eastern regions, a small amount of snowfall is expected during the nocturnal hours. In the other regions of Switzerland, skies will be partially clear. During the daytime in western and inneralpine regions, as well as in the south, it will initially be quite sunny, subsequently a new battery of cloud will move in. In northeastern regions, skies will be overcast, but it will also remain dry.

Fresh snow

Above 1000 m: in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons: 5 cm; in the Prealps: as much as 10 cm.

Temperature

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

Wind

- Winds at high altitudes will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northerly to northeasterly directions;
- in the Jura region and the Prealps intermittently a moderate strength bise wind;
- in other regions, winds will be predominantly light.

Outlook through Sunday, 13.01.2019

Saturday

On Friday night in northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. During the daytime on Saturday, skies will be overcast. It will be quite sunny in the Valais and in the southern regions. The avalanche danger will continue to diminish in northern regions; in southern regions avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Sunday

During the night in northern regions, precipitation will set in. During the daytime, persistent snowfall is expected on the northern flank of the Alps which will endure and be heavy. The snowfall level will be at low lying areas. In the southern regions it will remain quite sunny as a consequence of northerly winds. The avalanche danger will increase in northern regions; in southern regions avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.