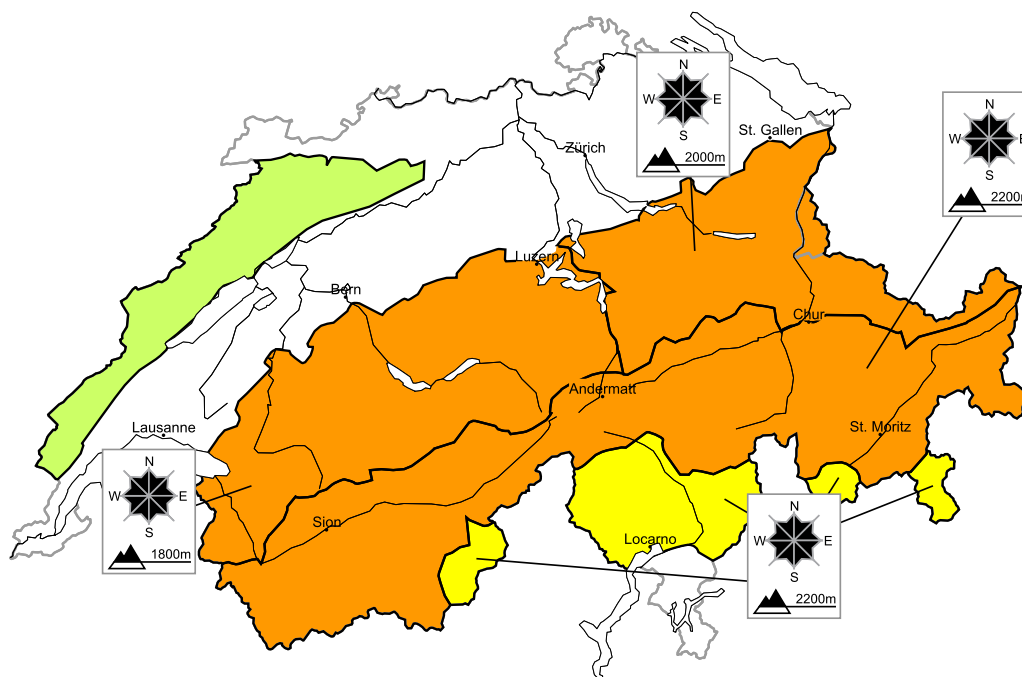


# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 12.1.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 12.1.2019, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 12.1.2019, 08:00



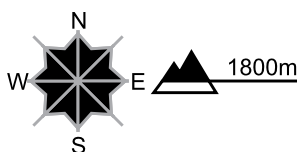
region A

Level 3, considerable



### 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 by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Defensive route selection is advisable.

### Gliding avalanches

On very steep grassy slopes small gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



WSL Institute for Snow and  
Avalanche Research SLF  
www.slf.ch

**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow and snow drifts**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

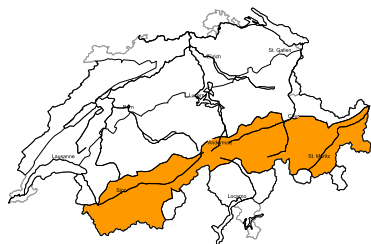
The near-surface layers of the snowpack represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant. As a consequence of a sometimes strong wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form as the day progresses as well. This applies in particular at elevated altitudes and in the Prealps. The fresh wind slabs are mostly small but prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in steep terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

**Gliding avalanches**

On very steep grassy slopes small and medium-sized gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

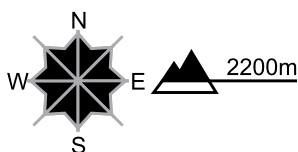
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

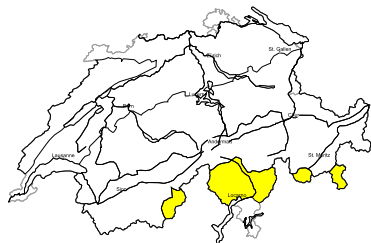
The wind slabs of the last few days represent the main danger. They are covered with fresh snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

**Gliding avalanches**

On very steep grassy slopes small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

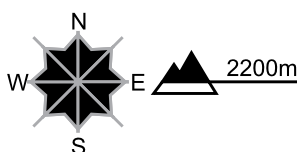
**region D**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**

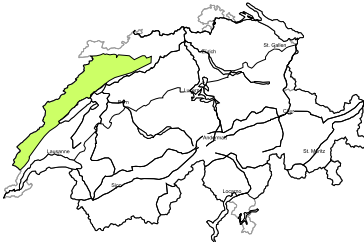


**Danger description**

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very 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. At elevated altitudes avalanche prone locations are more widespread and the danger is slightly greater.

**region E**

**Level 1, low**



Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on extremely steep slopes. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 11.1.2019, 17:00

### Snowpack

The fresh snow and snowdrifts of recent days, which are quite deep in some places on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons in particular, are consolidating. In the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else, these layers were deposited on top of an unfavourable old snowpack in some places, inside of which are crusts and weak layers. In those places avalanches can be triggered from inside those weakened layers and sweep away the entire fresh snow and snowdrift accumulations of the last few days. In the major areas of precipitation in the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, such weak layers are less threatening and are covered by a thick layer of fresh snow.

On steep, grass-covered slopes, especially in the regions where snowfall has been heaviest on the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and northern Engadine, glide-snow avalanches can be expected.

### Observed weather on Friday, 11.01.2019

During the night the snowfall came to an end, including in northeastern regions. In the early morning hours it was temporarily sunny in the mountains before cloud cover again moved in during the course of the day.

#### Fresh snow

Since Thursday afternoon, approximately 20 cm of fresh snow has been registered down to low lying areas in the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps; only a few centimetres in the remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons. Thus, between Tuesday and Friday morning, over the course of three days, the following overall amounts of fresh snow have been registered above 1500 m:

- northern flank of the Alps east of Interlaken not including Gotthard region: 80 to 100 cm; as much as 130 cm in the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps;
- 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;
- Jura: 30 to 40 cm;
- Chablais, southern Valais not including the valleys of Visp and not including the Simplon region, central Grisons, remaining parts of Lower Engadine: 15 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland only a few centimetres; or else it remained dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -8 °C in southwestern regions and -13 °C in northeastern regions.

#### Wind

Winds in southern regions and in general at high altitude were blowing at moderate strength, elsewhere winds were light, from the north.

### Weather forecast through Saturday, 12.01.2019

During the night in northern regions and in Grisons, a small amount of snowfall is expected down to low lying areas. During the daytime in the Valais, it will be rather sunny, starting in the early morning hours; in the other regions, skies will incrementally brighten from the west. In the Prealps, skies will remain predominantly overcast. In southern regions it will be rather sunny.

#### Fresh snow

- Northern Alpine Ridge east of the Wildstrubel, northern Grisons: 5 to 10 cm;
- remaining regions, less; in southern Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps it will remain dry.

#### Temperature

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

#### Wind

- Winds in some places in southern and high alpine regions will be blowing at strong velocity from northerly directions;
- in northern and inneralpine regions at 2000 m, the northerly winds will be light to start with; subsequently on the northern flank of the Alps intensifying westerly wind.

**Outlook** through Monday, 14.01.2019

Accompanied by strong to storm-strength northwesterly winds, intensive and persistent snowfall is anticipated. On the northern Alpine Ridge east of the Wildstrubel, in northern Grisons and in Samnaun, approximately 100 cm of fresh snow is expected. The snowfall level will ascend to approximately 1000 m on Sunday, thereafter descend again. Only in the furthestmost southern regions will it be predominantly sunny and dry, accompanied by storm-strength northerly winds. The avalanche danger levels are rising ongoingly without interruption. In the major areas of precipitation, increasingly frequent very large avalanches are expected. Avalanche danger level 4 (large) will presumably be reached during the course of the day on Sunday. In the western regions and in parts of central Grisons, the increase of avalanche danger to level 4 (large) is possible. In the furthestmost southern regions, avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.