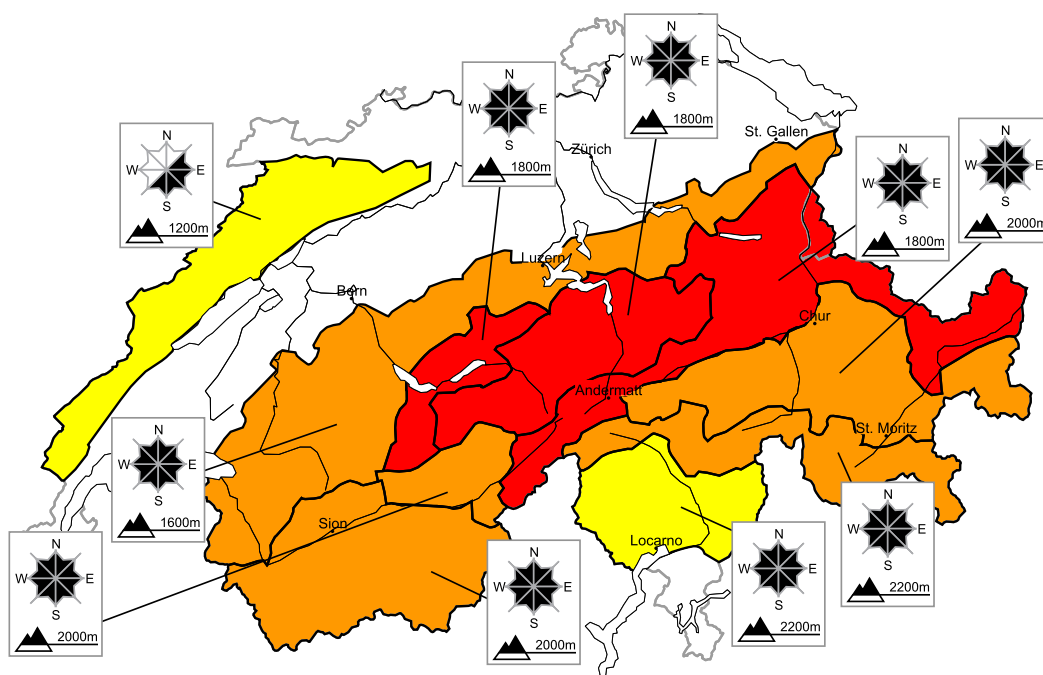


# Increase in avalanche danger. As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 13.1.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 13.1.2019, 17:00

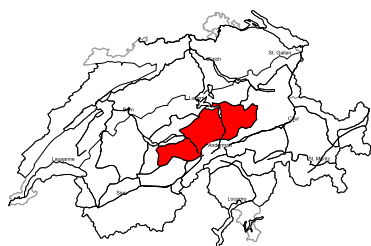
## Avalanche danger

updated on 13.1.2019, 08:00



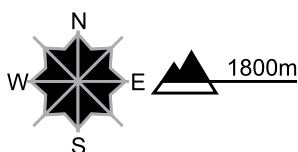
### region A

### Level 4, high



#### Fresh snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



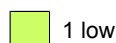
#### Danger description

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow will be deposited on soft layers. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. An increasing number of natural avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very critical. In their paths avalanches can entrain large quantities of snow. Large and, in isolated cases, very large avalanches are to be expected in the afternoon. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered to an increasing extent.

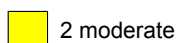
#### Wet and full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes more frequent gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. As a consequence of the rain wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 1400 m. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

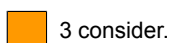
#### Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

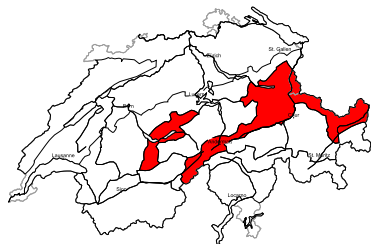


5 very high



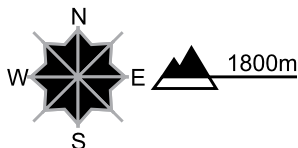
region B

Level 4, high



Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow will be deposited on soft layers. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. An increasing number of natural avalanches are to be expected. As the day progresses danger level 4 (high) will be reached. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very critical.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes more frequent gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. As a consequence of the rain wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 1400 m. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

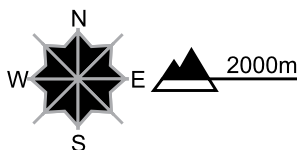
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



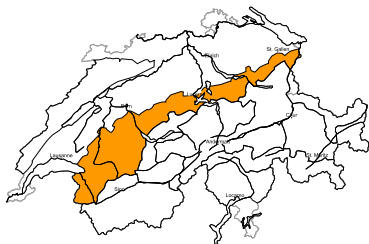
Danger description

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow will be deposited on soft layers. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. An increasing number of natural avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses. In the afternoon danger level 4 (high) will be reached. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very critical.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

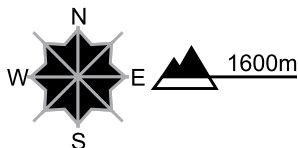
On very steep grassy slopes small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

**region D** **Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow will be deposited on soft layers. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. An increasing number of natural avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are critical.

**Wet and full-depth avalanches**

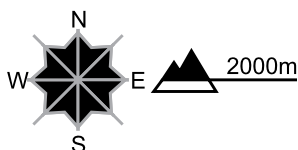
On steep grassy slopes more frequent gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. As a consequence of the rain wet avalanches are to be expected below approximately 1400 m. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

**region E** **Level 3, considerable**



**Fresh snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The fresh snow and wind slabs will be deposited on soft layers. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

**Gliding avalanches**

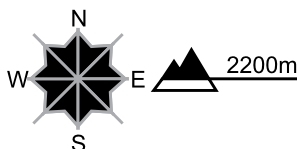
On very steep grassy slopes small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

**region F** **Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**

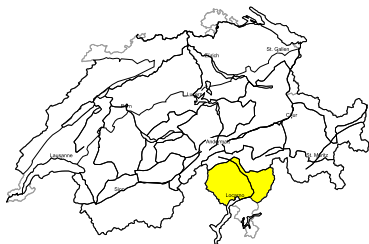


**Danger description**

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain, also at a distance from ridgelines. They are in some cases prone to triggering. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

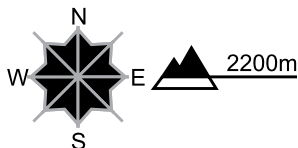
**region G**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**

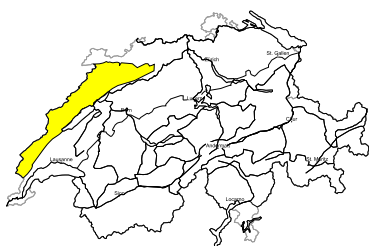


**Danger description**

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.

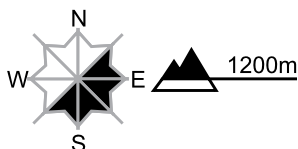
**region H**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong northwesterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form in particular in gullies and bowls and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 12.1.2019, 17:00

### Snowpack

A great deal of fresh snow and snowdrifts are being deposited on top of a loosely-packed surface of the snow cover. In western regions more than anywhere else, fractures down to layers of the old snowpack are expected from place to place. On the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland as far as Liechtenstein, in northern Upper Valais, in northern Grisons and in the northern Lower Engadine, there is also a great deal of snow on the ground even at intermediate altitudes, following the opulent snowfall of the last few days. At higher altitudes avalanches which fracture can sweep along an enormous amount of dry snow as they plummet towards the valley floor and thereby attain formidable reaching zones.

As a result of the ascending snowfall level, increasingly frequent glide-snow avalanches can be expected, in the regions along the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons more than anywhere else, where snowfall has been heaviest, particularly at lower and intermediate altitudes.

### Observed weather on Saturday, 12.01.2019

During the night in northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is expected down to low lying areas. During the daytime it remained dry for the most part, and above approximately 2000 m it was quite sunny from the west. In the southern Valais, in Sotto Ceneri, in the Lower Engadine, it was predominantly sunny.

#### Fresh snow

The amounts of fresh fallen snow which were registered during the night were as follows:

- on the northern flank of the Alps east of the Wildstrubel and in northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland less; in southern Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps, it remained dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in northern regions and +1 °C in southern regions.

#### Wind

During the night in southern regions and at high altitudes in general, strong-velocity northerly winds were blowing; in the other regions of Switzerland light-to-moderate northerly winds prevailed.

### Weather forecast through Sunday, 13.01.2019

As a result of the strong to storm-velocity northwesterly winds, persistent snowfall is anticipated, most of all during the daytime hours. The snowfall level will be at approximately 600 m to start with. During the course of the day on Sunday, the snowfall level is expected to ascend in northern regions to approximately 1200 m, to approximately 1500 m in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps. In the furthestmost southern regions, it will be quite sunny as a consequence of the northerly winds.

#### Fresh snow

By Sunday midday, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above approximately 1500 m:

- northern Alpine Ridge east of the Wildstrubel: 50 to 80 cm;
- remaining parts of the eastern Bernese Oberland, central and eastern parts of the Prealps, southern Goms, Prättigau, Silvretta, Samnaun: 40 to 50 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: 20 to 40 cm over widespread areas; in Ticino south of the Main Alpine Ridge and in the southern valleys of Grisons, less;
- Jura region: approximately 20 cm.

#### Temperature

At 2000 m, temperatures at 2000 m will rise by midday to -3 °C in northern regions and -1 °C in southern regions.

#### Wind

- Winds at high altitudes will be northwesterly, blowing at storm-strength;
- at 2000 m in northern regions, strong to storm-velocity westerly winds; on the southern flank of the Alps, strong-velocity northerly winds.

**Outlook** through Tuesday, 15.01.2019

Well into the nocturnal hours of Monday night, heavy and persistent snowfall is anticipated, with the precipitation extending down to low lying areas. The northwesterly winds will continue to blow at strong to storm velocity, thereby transporting the fresh fallen snow intensively. Only in the furthest southern regions will it be predominantly sunny and dry, as a result of the northerly winds. On Tuesday in northeastern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated during the daytime. In the other regions of Switzerland, it will be partly sunny.

Avalanche danger levels are expected to increase significantly once again. In the major areas of precipitation, very large and, in isolated cases, extremely large avalanches are expected. Presumably over wide-ranging sections of the northern flank of the Alps, of the Valais and Grisons, danger level 4 (high) can be expected. In the northern sector of the Alpine Ridge from Brünig Pass eastwards, not including the Gotthard region, as well as from Prättigau over the Silvretta into Samnaun, an increase even to danger level 5 (very high) is possible. As a consequence of the slackening off of precipitation, the situation is expected to calm incrementally on Tuesday. In the furthest southern regions the avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.