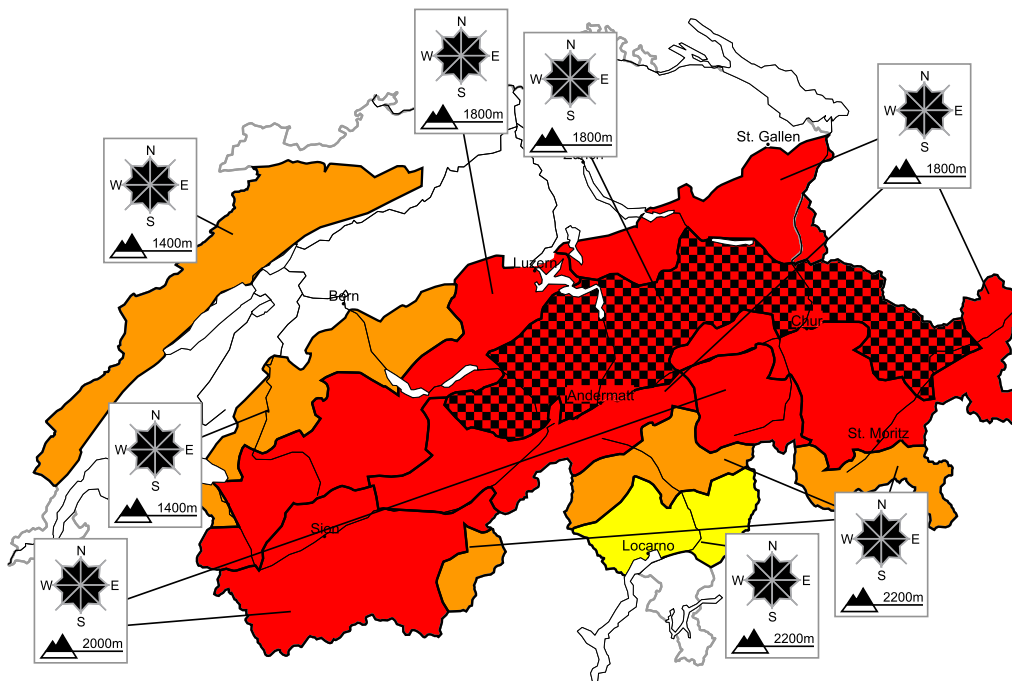


# Very high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

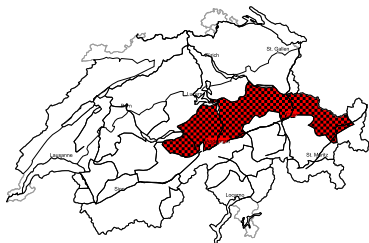
Edition: 14.1.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 14.1.2019, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 14.1.2019, 08:00

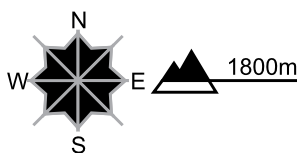


### region A Level 5, very high



#### Fresh snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow will be deposited on soft layers. The snowpack will become increasingly unstable. Very large and, in isolated cases, extremely large natural avalanches are to be expected. In their paths avalanches can entrain large quantities of snow. They can reach the valleys. Exposed buildings and transportation routes are endangered. Follow the instructions of the local public authorities and emergency services. It is inadvisable to engage in snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

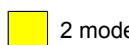
#### Wet and full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes occasionally large gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

**Danger levels**



1 low



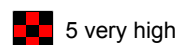
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

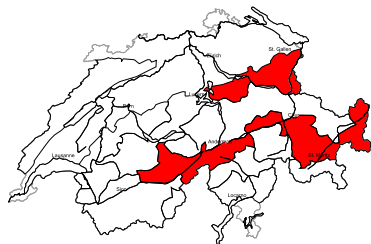


5 very high



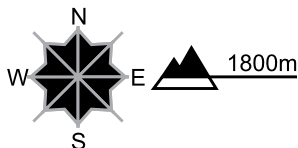
region B

Level 4, high



Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow will be deposited on soft layers. Very large natural avalanches are to be expected. In their paths avalanches can entrain large quantities of snow. Avalanches can reach valley bottoms and in the majority of cases endanger exposed transportation routes. Temporary safety measures are to be reviewed.

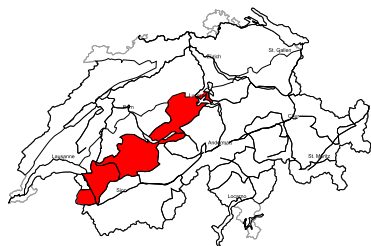
Follow the instructions of the local public authorities and emergency services. The conditions are very dangerous for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

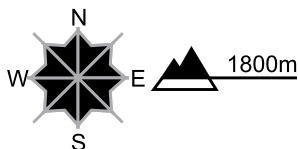
region C

Level 4, high



Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

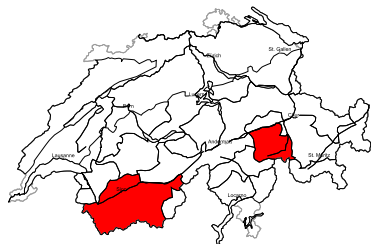
Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. A large number of medium-sized and large natural avalanches are to be expected. Individual very large avalanches are possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in some cases. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily, including dangerously large ones. Remotely triggered avalanches are to be expected. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very dangerous.

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. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

region D

Level 4, high



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs are very prone to triggering. Avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. Remotely triggered and natural avalanches are to be expected. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very dangerous. Individual very large avalanches are possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in some cases.

Gliding 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. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

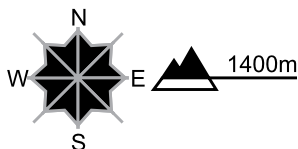
region E

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs are very prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. Avalanches can be released in the old snowpack also. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are critical.

Gliding avalanches

On 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 as far as possible.

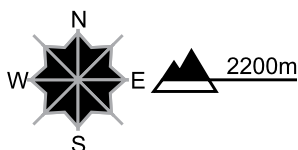
region F

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

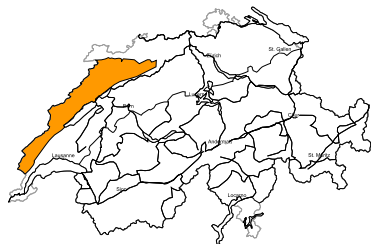


Danger description

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.

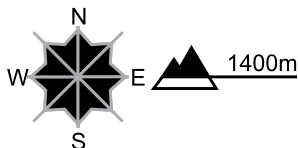
**region G**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**

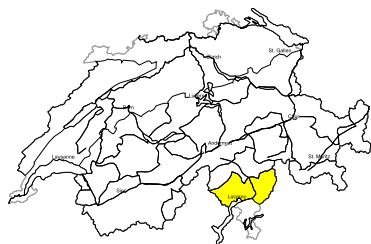


**Danger description**

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.

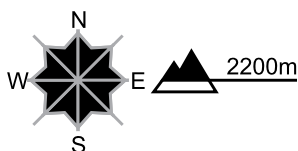
**region H**

**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.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 13.1.2019, 17:00

### Snowpack

The already immense layers of fresh fallen and freshly drifted snow from Sunday continue to grow further. They have been deposited on top of a loosely-packed old snowpack surface and are instable. In western regions, in the Valais and in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, more than anywhere else, also fractures in the layers of the old snowpack, which are weak in some places, are expected. 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 part of Lower Engadine, there is a great deal of snow even at intermediate altitudes, following the opulent snowfall during this last week. Further up at higher altitudes, avalanches which trigger can sweep along a large amount of snow as they plummet towards the valley, and thus attain enormous reach. As a consequence of the intensive snowfall, avalanches can fracture down to more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack in these regions and thereby grow to extremely large size in isolated cases. On steep, grass-covered slopes at low and intermediate altitudes, glide-snow avalanches continue to be expected ongoingly. In the regions along the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons where snowfall has been heaviest, these releases can be large-sized.

### Observed weather on Sunday, 13.01.2019

As a consequence of the strong-velocity northwest barrier-cloud front, there was snowfall which was heavy and persistent. The snowfall level ascended from 600 m, during the afternoon in northern regions, to approximately 1200 m. In the Upper Valais and in Grisons, the snowfall persisted down to low lying areas the entire time. In the furthestmost southern regions it was partly sunny.

#### Fresh snow

By Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 1500 m:

- northern Alpine Ridge, Goms: 40 to 70 cm;
- southern Lower Valais, remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps not including Vaud Alps and not including Fribourg Alps, as well as the remaining parts of the Gotthard region, northern Grisons, northern Central Grisons, Lower Engadine: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less than 20 cm; in the furthestmost southern regions it remained dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C, in eastern regions at -4 °C.

#### Wind

Winds were blowing at strong velocity, intermittently at storm strength on the northern flank of the Alps, from westerly to northwesterly directions.

## Weather forecast through Monday, 14.01.2019

As a result of strong to storm-strength northerly to northwesterly winds, the snowfall is expected to be very intensive and persistent. The snowfall level in northern regions and in the Lower Valais will lie at 1200 to 1400 m to begin with, subsequently descending down to low lying areas in the latter part of the night. In Grisons, it will snow down to low lying areas the entire time. In the furthestmost southern regions it is expected to be quite sunny as a result of the northerly winds.

### Fresh snow

Between Sunday afternoon and Monday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above approximately 1500 m:

- northern Alpine Ridge from the Wildstrubel as far as the Alpstein, Silvretta: 60 to 100 cm;
- northern Alpine Ridge west of the Wildstrubel, remaining parts of the Valais not including Saas Fee and not including southern Simplon region, as well as the remaining parts of the Gotthard region, remaining parts of northern Grisons, remaining parts of the Lower Engadine: 40 to 60 cm;
- remaining parts of the Swiss Alps and Jura region: 20 to 40 cm over widespread areas;
- central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri will remain dry for the most part.

### Temperature

The temperatures at 2000 m are expected to drop by midday to -7 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions.

### Wind

- Winds during the night will be northwesterly, blowing at storm-strength,
- during the daytime at strong velocity in western regions, in the other regions at storm strength, from northerly directions.

## Outlook through Wednesday, 16.01.2019

### Tuesday

In the western regions, the snowfall is expected to come to an end in the early part of the night, subsequently snowfall will also terminate in the northeastern regions. During the course of the day in western regions and in general at high altitudes, it will become quite sunny. In the southern regions it will be predominantly sunny as a result of the northerly winds. As the precipitation comes to an end, the general avalanche situation will calm. The activity of naturally triggered, dry-snow avalanches is expected to diminish significantly, but not their size. Glide-snow avalanches continue to be expected. For all sports in outlying terrain away from secured and marked ski runs, the situation remains quite dangerous. In the furthestmost southern regions, the avalanche danger situation is not expected to change significantly.

### Wednesday

It will be predominantly sunny. The threats of dry-snow avalanches are expected to diminish significantly. For backcountry winter sports in outlying terrain away from secured and marked ski runs, the situation will still be quite delicate. Glide-snow avalanches continue to be expected. In the furthestmost southern regions, the avalanche danger situation remains quite favourable.