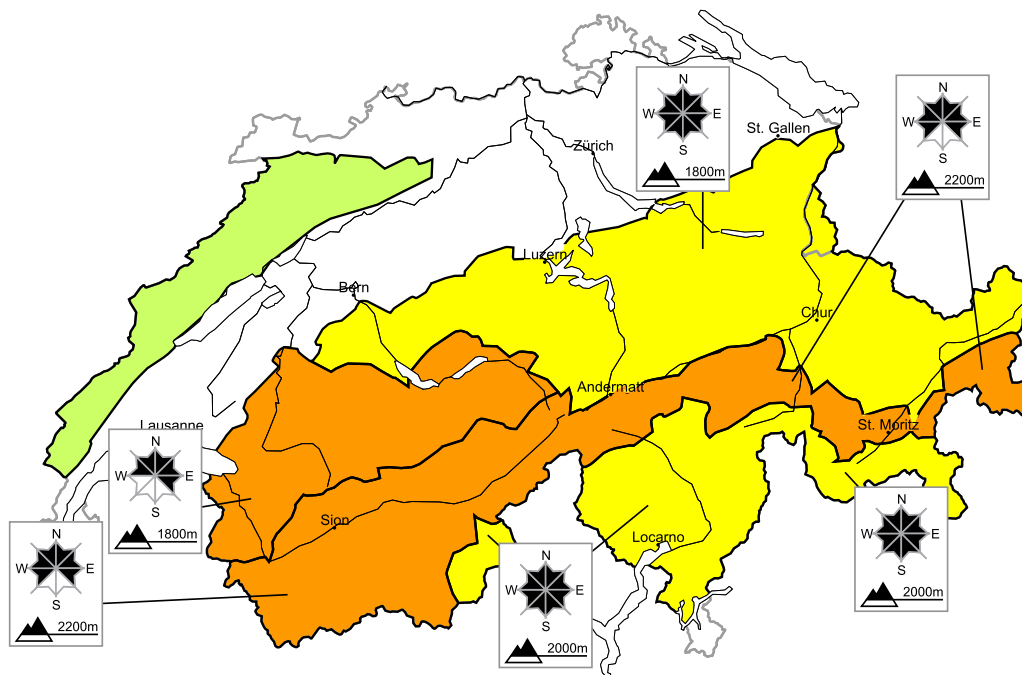


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

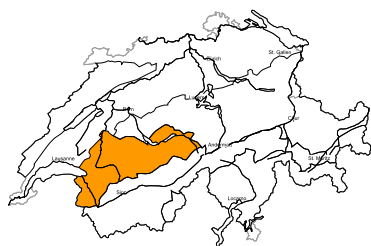
Edition: 19.1.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 19.1.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 19.1.2019, 08:00

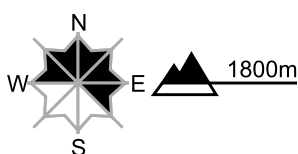


region A Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in some cases be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. The more recent wind slabs are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls in all aspects. They are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Defensive route selection is recommended.

Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

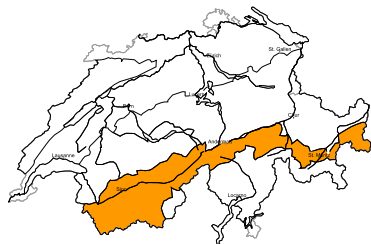


5 very high



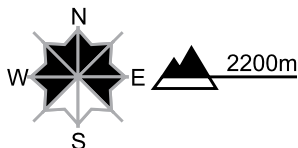
region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in some cases be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Fresh wind slabs are to be found especially at elevated altitudes. These are in some cases prone to triggering.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

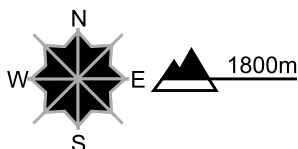
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh wind slabs are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas. They are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.

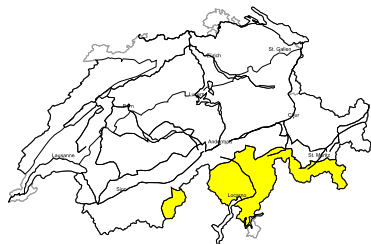
Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in deeper layers. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Careful route selection is important.

Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Exposed transportation routes can be endangered. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

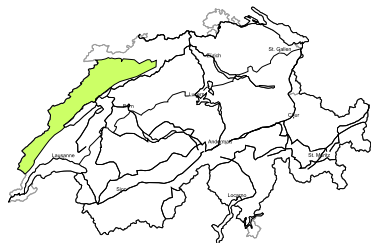


Danger description

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



Wind slabs

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They 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 18.1.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

Snow depths in all the regions of the Swiss Alps, with the exception of the furthestmost western and southern regions, are above average for this juncture of the season, far above average in the eastern regions. In northern Grisons and in Liechtenstein more than anywhere else, record-breaking snow depths are being recorded in some places for this juncture of the season.

In the regions of the north and the east where snowfall has been heaviest, the process of the snowpack settling and consolidating the enormous masses of fresh snow which fell at the beginning of the week is leading to a favourable snowpack structuring. The danger of dry-snow avalanches stems by and large from the freshly generated snowdrift accumulations.

In the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, in the southern part of Valais and in central and southern Grisons, weak layers are covered by less fresh snow, so that avalanches could fracture down to these layers and then grow to dangerously large size.

Below 2200 to 2500 m glide-snow avalanches are possible, particularly on south-facing steep slopes. In the regions where snowfall was heaviest along the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, these avalanches can grow to large size in places.

Observed weather on Friday, 18.01.2019

Nocturnal skies in the northern regions were overcast and there was a small amount of fresh snow registered over widespread areas. In the southern regions it remained dry. The snowfall level descended to low lying areas. During the daytime it was quite sunny to start with. During the afternoon, cloudbanks which were frequently heavy moved in.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 1000 m:

- Jura region, northern flank of the Alps, western Lower Valais, Gotthard region, northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres; in the furthestmost southern regions it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -8 °C in western and southern regions and -12 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

- Winds in the northern regions were blowing to some extent at moderate to strong velocity from westerly to northwesterly directions, during the daytime at light to moderate strength from the north;
- in the southern regions, a northerly foehn wind was blowing at moderate to strong velocity, subsequently slackening off during the afternoon;
- in the Jura region, moderately strong bise wind developed during the course of the day.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 19.01.2019

Nighttime skies in the northern regions will be partly clear, in the southern regions skies will be overcast, and in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps a small amount of snowfall is expected down to low lying areas. During the daytime in the northern regions, it will be predominantly sunny accompanied by cloudbanks. In the southern regions it will become increasingly sunny during the course of the day.

Fresh snow

In the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps, a few centimetres of fresh snow is anticipated above 600 m.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -7 °C in northern regions and -9 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength from southwesterly to northwesterly directions.

Outlook through Monday, 21.01.2019

On both days it will be variably cloudy accompanied by some sunshine, particularly in the inneralpine regions, and some snow showers, particularly on the northern flank of the Alps. South of the Main Alpine Ridge it is expected to be predominantly sunny. The snowfall level will be at 500 m.

Avalanche danger levels will incrementally decrease. Glide-snow avalanches continue to be possible.

