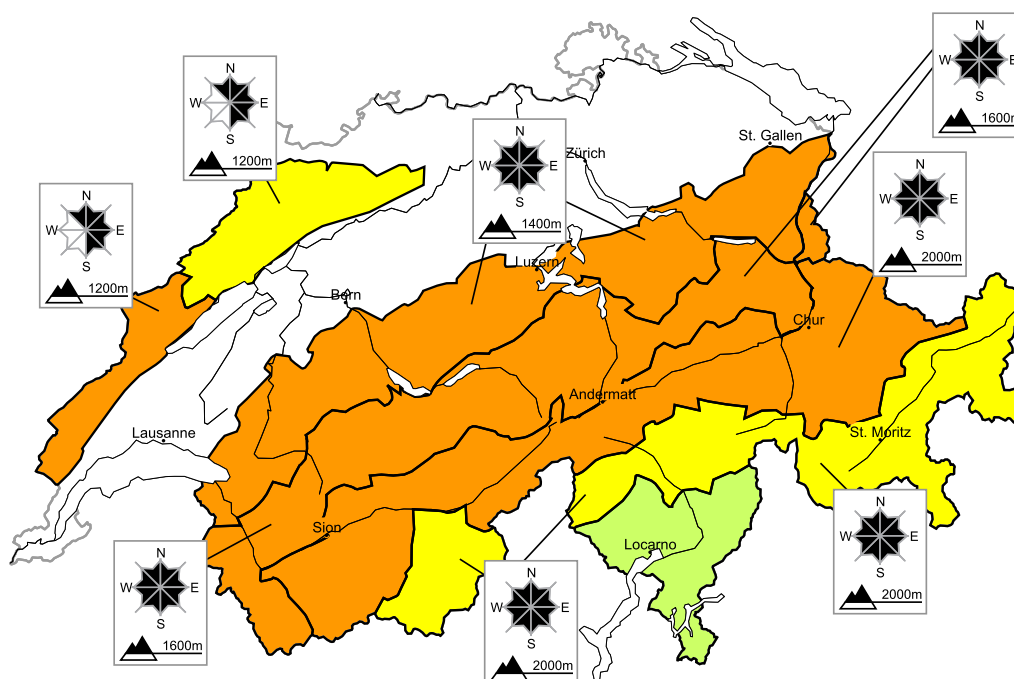


A critical avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area. As a consequence of a strong foehn wind, dangerous wind slabs will form

Edition: 30.1.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 30.1.2019, 17:00

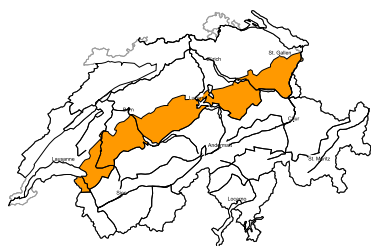
Avalanche danger

updated on 30.1.2019, 08:00



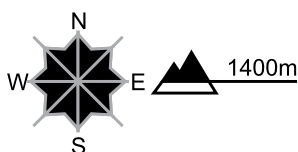
region A

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow of the last few days is lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. As a consequence of the southwesterly wind the wind slabs will increase in size additionally, also at a distance from ridgelines and at intermediate altitudes. These are prone to triggering. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Remotely triggered and natural avalanches are to be expected.

Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

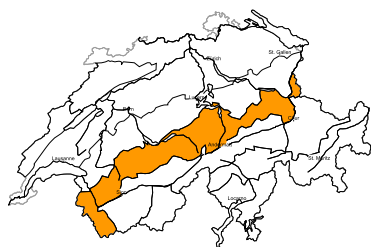
5 very high



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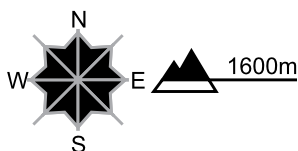
region B

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



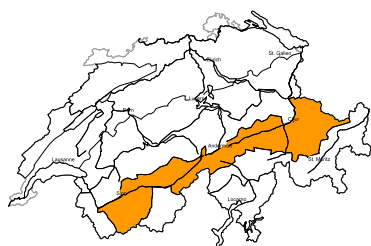
Danger description

The fresh snow of the last few days is lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. As a consequence of a strong southwesterly wind, extensive wind slabs formed, also at a distance from ridgelines and at intermediate altitudes. These are prone to triggering. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Remotely triggered and natural avalanches are to be expected.

Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

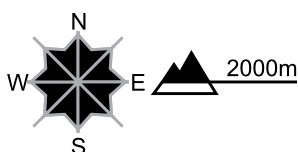
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow of the last few days is lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. As a consequence of a strong to storm force southwesterly wind, sometimes large wind slabs formed. These can be released even by a single winter sport participant. They are to be avoided in steep terrain. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible.

Ski touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger.

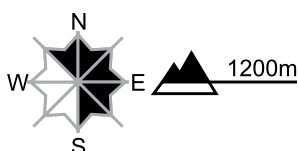
region D

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations

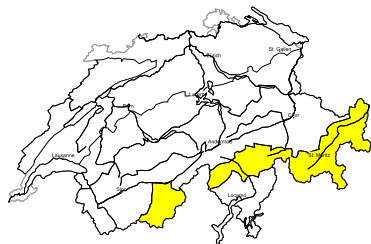


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong southwesterly wind, dangerous wind slabs will form in gullies and bowls and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. These can be released easily. They are to be avoided in steep terrain. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

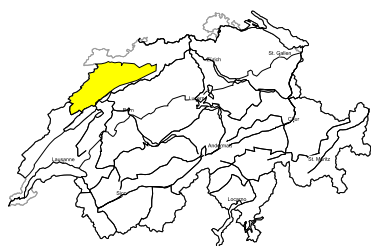


Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs can be released easily. They are mostly small. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. The wind slabs are to be bypassed in steep terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

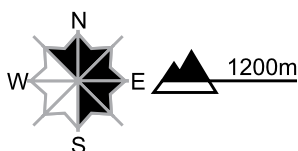
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong southwesterly wind, wind slabs will form in particular in gullies and bowls and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They can in some cases be released easily, but they will be small in most cases. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

region G

Level 1, low



Wind slabs

Wind slabs are only small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in extreme terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 29.1.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

Over a wide area, the fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of recent days are lying on a soft old snow surface consisting of faceted snow crystals and, in some cases, on surface hoar as well. In some places this snow is prone to triggering. The final snow that fell on Monday night was deposited in cold conditions with little wind. It is so loosely bonded that the developing foehn wind will transport large quantities, even in the intermediate altitude zone.

In the northern and eastern regions with a lot of snow, the bonding of the middle and deep layers of the snowpack is favourable. Although the bonding of the snowpack is slightly less favourable in the other regions, hardly any avalanche releases in fairly deep layers have been reported for some time.

Below approximately 2200 m, individual gliding avalanches can still occur on south facing slopes in particular. In the northern and eastern regions with a lot of snow, these can reach a large size.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 29.01.2019

During the night snow fell in the north, even in the valleys. During the day it quickly became fairly sunny from the west and south. In the afternoon high-altitude cloud built up in the west.

Fresh snow

On Monday night 20 to 40 cm of loosely bonded fresh snow was deposited in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, in the northern parts of the Bernese Alps, and on the northern flank of the Alps east of the Reuss; 10 to 20 cm fell in the other regions north of a line between the Rhone and Rhine, in Prättigau and in the Jura. The following aggregate amounts of snow have therefore fallen since Sunday:

- Extreme west of Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, northern parts of the Bernese Alps, Glarus Alps, Alpstein: 40 to 80 cm
- Rest of the northern flank of the Alps excluding Urseren, Jura: 30 to 50 cm
- Elsewhere: 10 to 30 cm in the Visp valleys, but less in the south and Engadine

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -10 °C

Wind

- In the Jura and also at elevated altitudes on the northern Alpine ridge east of the Jungfrau, and on the main Alpine ridge east of the Simplon Pass, a moderate to strong northwesterly wind will persist early in the night
- Otherwise light from the west to north, southerly in the afternoon

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 30.01.2019

It will be mostly cloudy and, in the west and south in particular, some snow will fall even at low altitudes. The afternoon will be largely dry and there will be bright intervals in both the west and the south. The foehn wind will persist until the afternoon in central and eastern Switzerland.

Fresh snow

By Wednesday afternoon the following amounts of snow will fall:

- Extreme west of Lower Valais, western Jura: 10 to 20 cm
- Rest of Jura, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, northern Lower Valais, central part of the southern flank of the Alps: 5 to 10 cm
- Other regions: a few centimetres or none

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -11 °C

Wind

- During the night and in the morning, strong, in the west occasionally storm force from the southwest, and on the northern flank of the Alps a strong foehn wind
- In the afternoon, moderate to strong westerly, but northerly in the south

Outlook through Friday, 01.02.2019**Thursday**

Partly sunny in the north, mostly cloudy in the south. The south foehn will strengthen during the day and reach storm force in the afternoon. In the west and south, a little snow may fall in the afternoon. More old snow will be transported. The avalanche situation will remain precarious over a wide area.

Friday

The foehn wind will persist in the north, and there will be bright intervals towards the east. Precipitation will fall in the west and south. Relatively large quantities of snow may fall from eastern Ticino to the Bernina region, and in the Jura. The snowfall level will rise to approximately 1000 m. The avalanche danger will increase significantly in the regions exposed to heavier precipitation. In the other regions it will not change significantly.