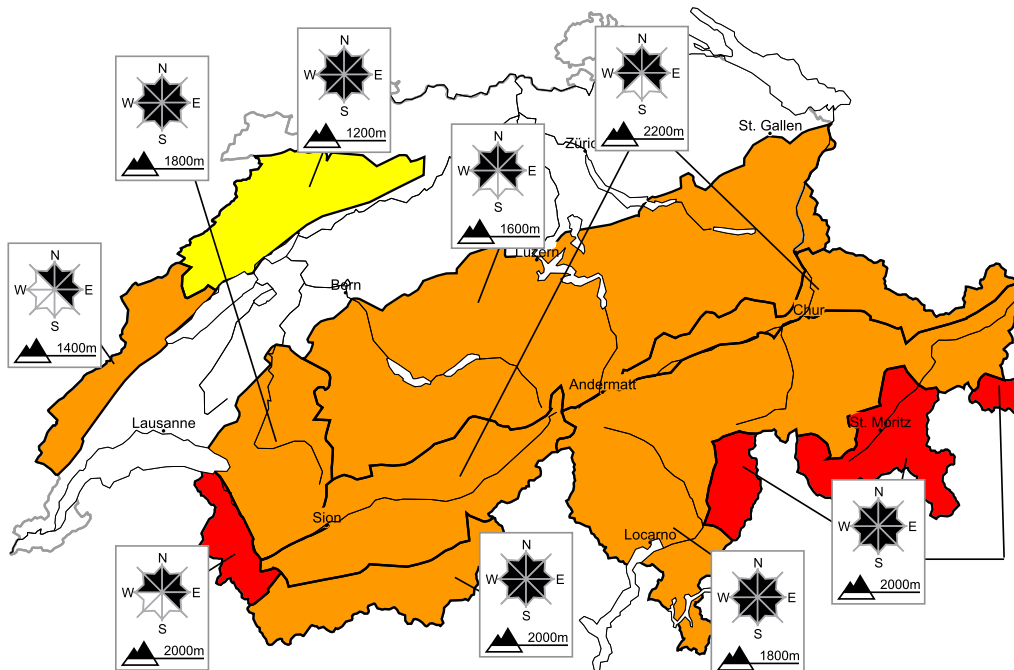


High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

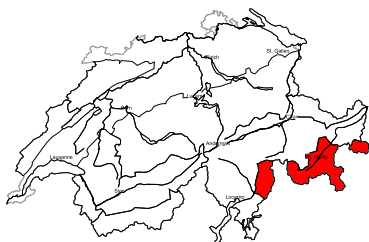
Edition: 2.2.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 2.2.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 2.2.2019, 08:00

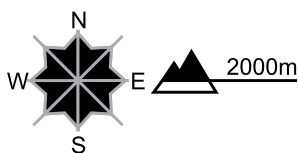


region A **Level 4, high**



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

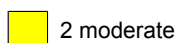
The fresh snow is poorly bonded with the old snowpack. In addition large wind slabs formed in particular at elevated altitudes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including large ones. Remotely triggered avalanches are probable. The conditions are very critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

More natural avalanches are possible, even very large ones in isolated cases. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

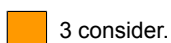
Danger levels



1 low



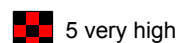
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

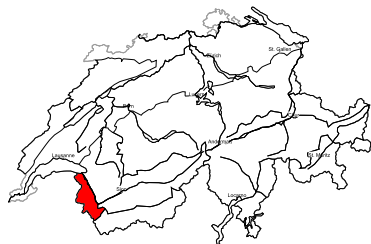


5 very high



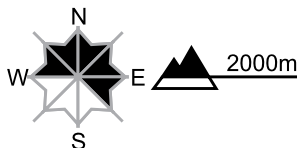
region B

Level 4, high



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

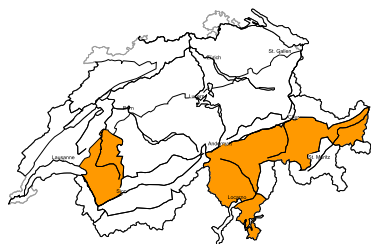
Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow of the last few days remain prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. The conditions are critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes. Hardly any more natural avalanches are to be expected. The danger exists in particular in alpine snow sports terrain.

Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes and below approximately 2200 m individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

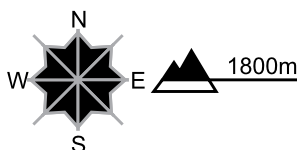
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with fresh snow and are therefore difficult to recognise. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including large ones. Remotely triggered avalanches are to be expected. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases as before. The conditions are critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes and below approximately 2200 m individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

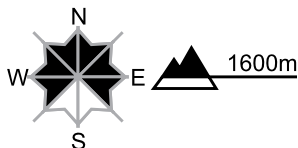
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are bonding only slowly with the old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

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

Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes and below approximately 2200 m individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

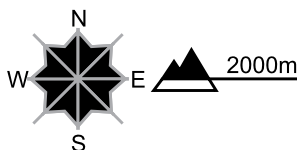
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



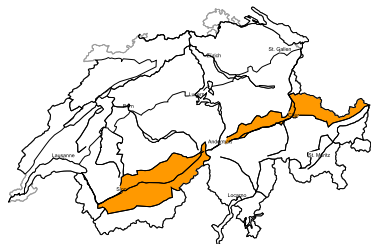
Danger description

The wind slabs of Friday are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

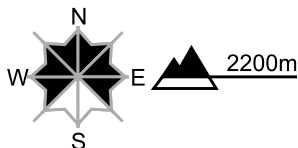
region F

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of Friday are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes and below approximately 2200 m individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

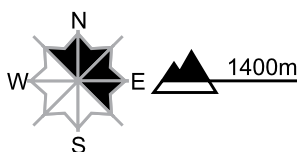
region G

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

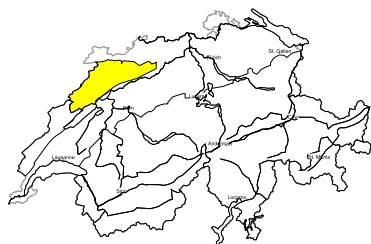


Danger description

The sometimes large wind slabs of the last few days represent the main danger. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. They are to be avoided in steep terrain. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

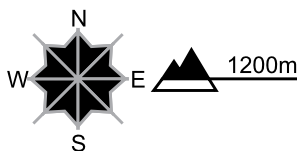
region H

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days represent the main danger. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence especially 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 1.2.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

Strong to storm-strength southerly winds and foehn wind in the northern regions have transported masses of fresh and old snow. The snowdrift accumulations are for the most part inadequately bonded with the old snow; they constitute the main danger over widespread areas. In some places, furthermore, weak layers are evident in the uppermost part of the snowpack. This occurs in the regions north of the northern Alpine Ridge more than anywhere else, but also in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps.

Below approximately 2200 m, particularly on south-facing slopes, isolated glide-snow avalanches are possible. In the regions of the north and the east where snowfall has been heaviest, these releases can be of large magnitude.

Observed weather on Friday, 01.02.2019

Skies were overcast and there was intermittent snowfall registered, particularly in western and southern regions. The snowfall level in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps lay at 1200 m, in the Valais at 800 m, and on the southern flank of the Alps below 500 m.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon, the following amounts of snowfall were registered above approximately 1200 m:

- western part of the Jura region, Chablais, Trient: 20 to 40 cm;
- central sector of the southern flank of the Alps, Upper Engadine, Val Bregaglia and Val Poschiavo: 15 to 30 cm;
- eastern part of Jura region, Vaud Alps, remaining parts of Lower Valais, remaining parts of Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn to the Ofen Pass, Münstertal: 5 to 10 cm;
- further towards the north: only a few centimetres or else it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 between -2 °C in northern regions and -7 °C in southern regions.

Wind

Northern flank of the Alps, Valais, Grisons: strong to storm-strength southerly winds, in the northern regions intermittent foehn wind extending down to low lying areas;

Ticino: light to moderate southerly winds.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 02.02.2019

On Friday evening and during the early part of the night, snowfall in western and southern regions is expected to be intensive. The snowfall level in northern regions will lie at approximately 1200 m, in inneralpine and southern regions in low lying areas. As of midnight, the snowfall will taper off and during the daytime only a few centimetres of fresh snow is expected. On Saturday in northern regions, it will be quite sunny in the morning. During the afternoon cloud cover will move in increasingly from the west. In southern regions skies will remain predominantly overcast.

Fresh snow

The forecasts for the amounts of precipitation are still uncertain. By Saturday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected above 1200 m:

- Main Alpine Ridge from Rheinwaldhorn over the Bernina region into the Münstertal, Upper Engadine: 20 to 40 cm;
- Chablais, furthestmost western part of Lower Valais: 15 to 30 cm;
- Vaud Alps, Fribourg Alps, Ovronnaz, Montana, Ticino, southern regions of central Grisons, Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm;
- Jura region, remaining parts of Valais, remaining parts of western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, Urseren, northern parts of central Grisons: 5 to 10 cm; further towards the north only a few centimetres or else it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -3 °C in northern regions and -5 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- During the night: strong-velocity southerly winds, with foehn-wind influence particularly in Grisons at high altitudes and in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps;
- During the daytime: light to moderate winds, blowing predominantly from southerly directions.

Outlook through Monday, 04.02.2019

Sunday

In northern regions snowfall is expected, accompanied by strong-velocity northerly winds. In northern regions the danger levels will increase somewhat as a result of fresh snow. In the southern regions the situation will remain treacherous as a consequence of the northerly winds.

Monday

The snowfall and winds will slacken off. It will gradually become sunnier. Avalanche danger levels will incrementally decrease in all regions of Switzerland.