Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 3 February 2019

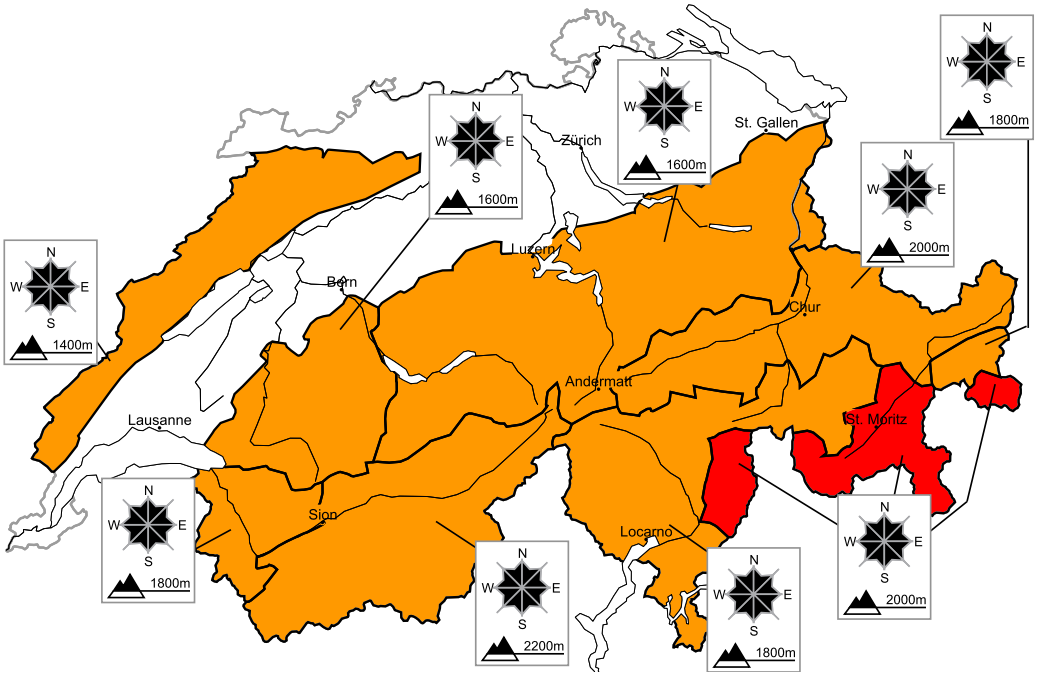
3.2.2019, 07:57

High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

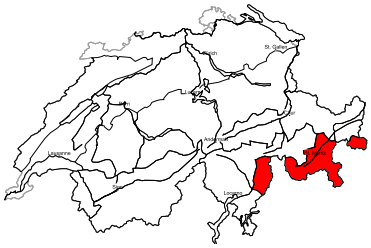
Edition: 3.2.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 3.2.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 3.2.2019, 08:00

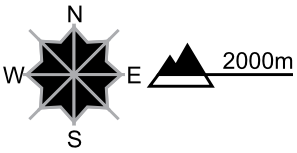


region A | **Level 4, high**



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong to storm force northerly wind, extensive wind slabs will form. The fresh snow and wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including large ones. Remotely triggered and natural avalanches are possible. The conditions are very critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.
The danger exists primarily in alpine snow sports terrain. Avalanches capable of reaching valley bottoms and endangering exposed transportation routes are unlikely to occur.

Danger levels 1 low | 2 moderate | 3 consider. | 4 high | 5 very high

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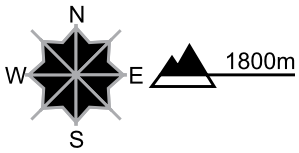
region B — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



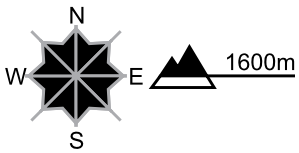
Danger description

As a consequence of a strong to storm force northerly wind, extensive wind slabs will form. The fresh snow and wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Remotely triggered and natural avalanches are possible. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow represents the main danger. In addition the somewhat older wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases still. These will be covered with fresh snow and therefore barely recognisable. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.
Central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps: An increasing number of medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large natural avalanches are possible as the day progresses.

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.

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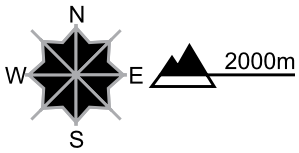
region D — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

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

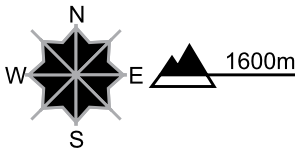
Gliding avalanches

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

Old snow, fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist in the old snowpack. The fresh snow is bonding only slowly with the old snowpack. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Backcountry touring calls for caution and restraint.

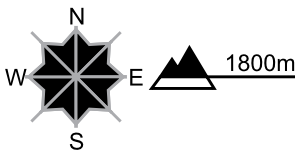
Gliding avalanches

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 F — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of northerly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Avalanches can in particular be released in near-surface layers and reach medium size. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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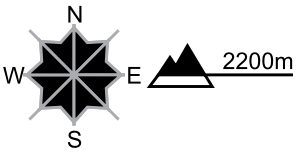
region G — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



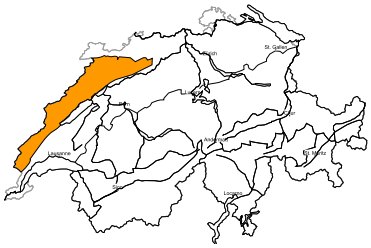
Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach large size. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

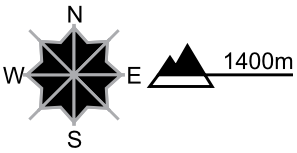
In particular on very steep sunny slopes and below approximately 2200 m individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region H — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs 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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 2.2.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

The layers of fresh snow and freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which are deep in some places, are inadequately bonded with the old snow and are prone to triggering. In addition, weak layers are frequently evident in the uppermost section of the old snowpack.
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 grow to large size.

Observed weather on Saturday, 02.02.2019

During the nocturnal hours, particularly in western regions, in Ticino and in Grisons, there was still snowfall. The snowfall level was at 800 m in the Valais, at 1200 m on the northern flank of the Alps and descended from 1800 m down to approximately 1300 m in Grisons. During the morning, the precipitation came to an end. In the northern regions, skies were variably cloudy accompanied by sunny intervals, in the southern regions skies were predominantly overcast.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Saturday morning the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 1500 m:

- Chablais, Trient, Upper Engadine and southern valleys of Grisons: 50 to 80 cm; Ticino, Vals, Hinterrhein, Avers, Bivio, Savognin, Albulatal, Ofen Pass, Val S-charl: 30 to 50 cm;
- Jura region, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, Ovronnaz, Montana, Great St. Bernard, region along the Italian border between Zermatt into the Simplon region, as well as the remaining parts of central Grisons south of the Anterior Rhine, Schanfigg, Davos, northern Lower Engadine: 15 to 30 cm;
- remaining parts of Valais, remaining parts of the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, Urseren, Grisons north of Anteríor Rhine: 5 to 15 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -5 °C in western and southern regions and -2 °C in northeastern regions.

Wind

- Nocturnal winds will be blowing at moderate strenth, at strong velocity at high altitudes, from the south;
- daytime winds will predominantly be light-to-moderate in strength, blowing from southerly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 03.02.2019

On Saturday night, precipitation will set in over widespread areas. The snowfall level will descend down to low lying areas. During the daytime on Sunday, skies will be overcast for the most part, the snowfall is expected to persist in northern regions.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above 1000 m:

- northern flank of the Alps: 20 to 40 cm; in the Prealps as much as 50 cm;
- Jura region, northern and central Grisons, Engadine and the bordering valleys to the south, Sotto Ceneri: 10 to 25 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: 5 to 15 cm over widespread areas.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -8 °C in northern regions and -4 °C in southern regions.

Wind

- Winds in northern regions will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity, particularly at high altitudes, from the north;
- in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps: strong to storm-strength northerly winds will extend down to low lying areas.

Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 3 February 2019

Outlook through Tuesday, 05.02.2019

On Sunday night the snowfall will come to an end, including in the northeastern regions. During the daytime on Monday, it will become quite sunny starting in the west. On Tuesday it will be quite sunny, apart from some high-altitude cloudbanks. The avalanche danger will incrementally decrease in all regions of Switzerland.