Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 4 February 2019

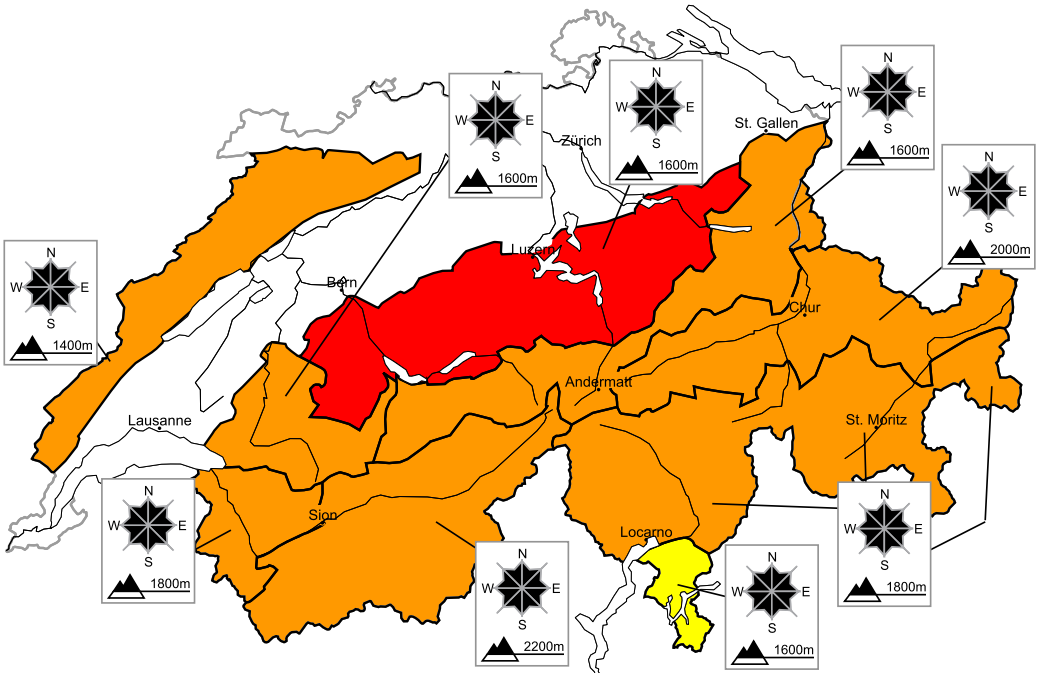
4.2.2019, 08:00

In the north a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

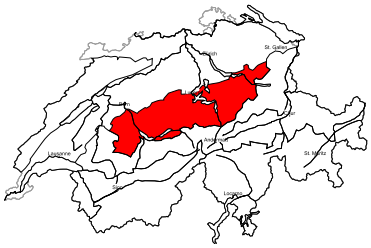
Edition: 4.2.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 4.2.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 4.2.2019, 08:00

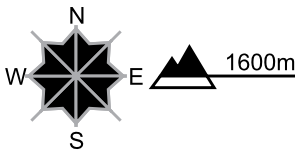


region A — Level 4, high



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

More snow than expected has fallen. Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Also below the tree line avalanche prone locations are prevalent. As a consequence of warming during the day, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase for a while. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including large ones.
The danger exists primarily in alpine snow sports terrain. Only isolated natural avalanches are possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered in some localities.

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.

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

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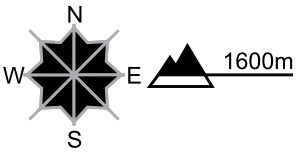
region B — Level 3, considerable

Fresh snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow represents the main danger. Avalanches can additionally be released in deeper layers also. As a consequence of warming during the day, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase for a while. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Isolated 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.

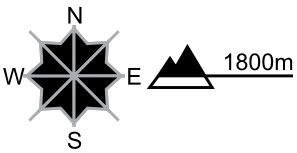
Gliding avalanches

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

Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs are poorly bonded with the 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 can indicate the danger. As a consequence of warming during the day, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase for a while. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

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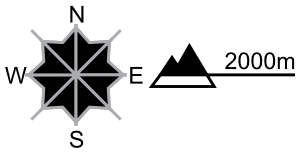
region D — Level 3, considerable

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. As a consequence of warming during the day, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase for a while. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for caution and restraint.

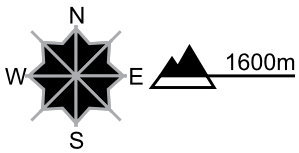
Gliding avalanches

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 E — Level 3, considerable

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist in the old snowpack. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. As a consequence of warming during the day, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase for a while. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call 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.

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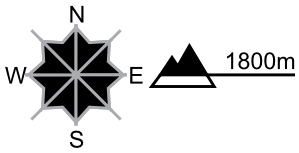
region F — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



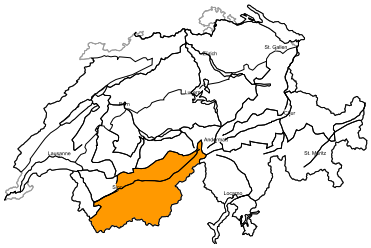
Danger description

Avalanches can in particular be released in near-surface layers and reach medium size. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. As a consequence of warming during the day, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase for a while. 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

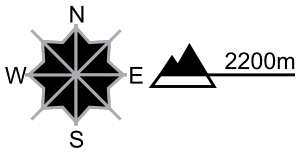
In particular on very steep sunny slopes and below approximately 2200 m individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region G — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



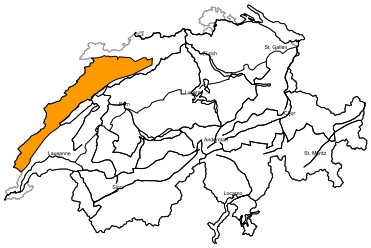
Danger description

The 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. As a consequence of warming during the day, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase for a while. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

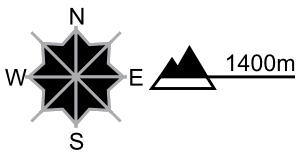
In particular on very steep sunny slopes and below approximately 2200 m individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region H — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

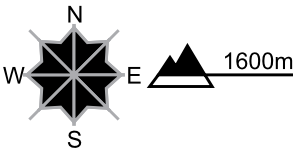
The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.

Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region I — Level 2, moderate

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of Sunday are in some cases prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places, including medium-sized ones. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 3.2.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

The layers of fresh snow and snowdrifts, which in places are quite deep, are inadequately bonded with the old snow and are thereby prone to triggering. In addition, weak layers are frequently evident in the uppermost section of the snowpack. Avalanche triggerings from the old snow cover have been reported particularly in the northern regions of the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, in Grisons and parts of the Valais.
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 great magnitude.

Observed weather on Sunday, 03.02.2019

During the night there was snowfall over widespread areas, the snowfall level descended to below 1000 m. During the daytime, skies were overcast in all regions of Switzerland, however, there was still snowfall only in the northern regions.

Fresh snow
Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 1000 m:
- Northern flank of the Alps not including Gotthard region: 20 to 40 cm; in the northern regions of the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps as much as 60 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: 10 to 25 cm over widespread areas, less in the Upper Valais and Ticino.

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

Wind
- Jura summits, Main Alpine Ridge from Simplon region into Bernina region and southwards therefrom, northern and central Grisons: strong-velocity, intermittently storm-strength northerly wind;
- in the remaining regions: predominantly moderate-strength northerly wind.

Weather forecast through Monday, 04.02.2019

During the nocturnal hours, the snowfall will come to an end in the northern regions. During the daytime it will be sunny in all regions of Switzerland following dispersal of residual cloud. A few high-altitude cloudbanks will move in during the afternoon.

Fresh snow
By Monday morning in the Bernese Oberland, in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, 5 to 15 cm of fresh snow is anticipated; in northern and central Grisons approximately 5 cm.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in western regions and -6 °C in eastern regions.

Wind
Winds will be light to moderate, shifting from northeasterly to northwesterly.

Outlook through Wednesday, 06.02.2019

It will be predominantly sunny, accompanied by only light winds, and continually becoming milder. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will recede, but only slowly in the regions with an old-snow problem. Glide-snow avalanches continue to be expected. As a result of daytime warming, moist snowslides can be expected from the fresh snow in particular.