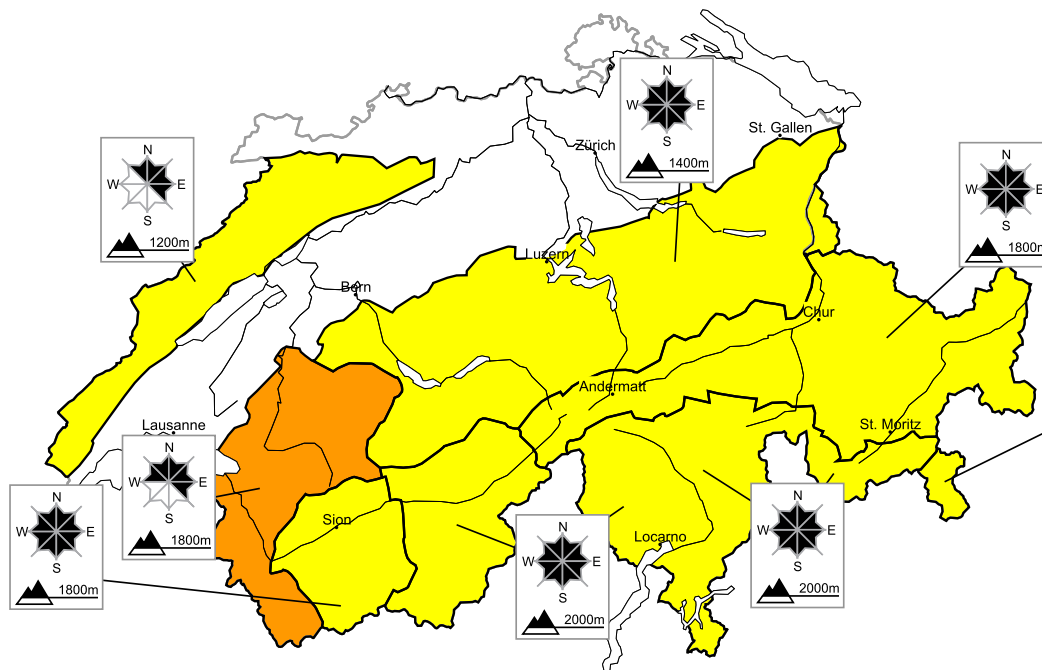


Wind slabs and weakly bonded old snow require caution

Edition: 8.2.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 8.2.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 8.2.2019, 08:00



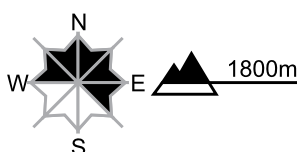
region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist in the snowpack in particular in areas close to the tree line. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. These can reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. The fresh wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence. They are mostly only small but in some cases prone to triggering. 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 medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m. 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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 www.slf.ch

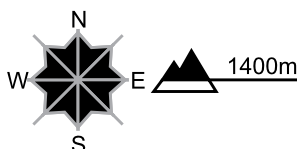
region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Weak layers exist in the top section of the snowpack in particular in areas close to the tree line. Avalanches can in some places be released by small loads. These can reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Isolated whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger.

The fresh wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence. They are mostly only small but in some cases prone to triggering.

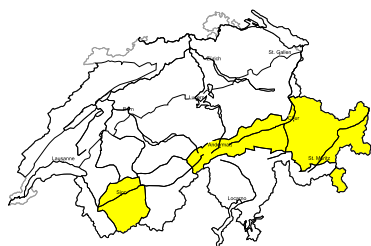
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for defensive route selection.

Gliding avalanches

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

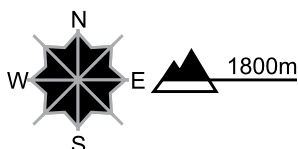
region C

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Weak layers exist in the top section of the snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released by small loads. These can reach dangerously large size. Isolated whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack and in areas close to the tree line.

The fresh wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence. They are mostly only small but in some cases prone to triggering.

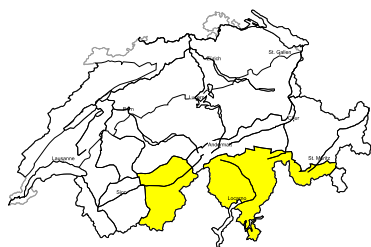
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for defensive route selection.

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 D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

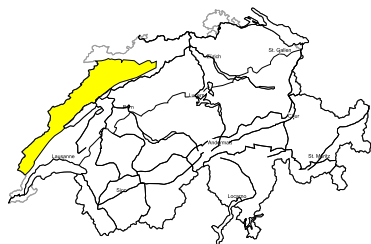
Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They can be released, especially at their margins,. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Careful route selection is recommended.

Gliding avalanches

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

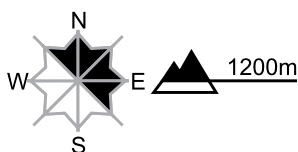
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh wind slabs can in some places be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 7.2.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

Predominantly small-sized snowdrift accumulations are being generated at high altitudes. These are easily triggered from place to place.

In the upper section of the snow cover there are expansively metamorphosed (faceted) softened layers evident.

Avalanches triggered in these weak layers have been reported during the last few days in the northern areas of the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, in the Prealps, in Grisons and in parts of the Lower Valais more than anywhere else. These occurred primarily in an altitude band around the timberline. Particularly in the Prealps during the last few days, several avalanches were also registered significantly below the timberline.

Below approximately 2200 m, particularly on sunny slopes, 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 Thursday, 07.02.2019

Skies during the night were partially clear, during the daytime skies were heavily overcast. Only in the Engadine was it still sunny during the morning hours. In the afternoon, light snowfall set in from the west.

Fresh snow

By Thursday afternoon in the western regions, a few centimetres of fresh snow was registered above 1000 m.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the Jura region and +2 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

Winds were southwesterly,

- blowing at moderate strength on the northern flank of the Alps and in the northern Valais and Jura regions at high altitudes, intermittently at strong velocity;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, mostly at light strength.

Weather forecast through Friday, 08.02.2019

During the night on Thursday a few centimetres of snowfall is expected in the Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons. In the Ticino it will remain dry. During the daytime it will be quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday midday, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above approximately 1000 m:

- in the Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; or else it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C in western regions and -4 °C in southern and eastern regions.

Wind

- Winds in the mountains will be blowing predominantly at moderate strength from westerly directions, in the western region intermittently at strong velocity;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, mostly at light strength.

Outlook through Sunday, 10.02.2019

On Friday night and in the early morning hours of Saturday, a small amount of snowfall is expected in northern regions. The snowfall level will be at approximately 1400 m. During the daytime it will be quite sunny in all regions of Switzerland. On Sunday in eastern regions, bright, foehn-induced skies are expected; in the other regions skies will be heavily overcast. During the course of the day, snowfall will set in from the west.

As a consequence of intermittently strong-velocity winds from westerly directions, snowdrift accumulations will be generated which will be prone to triggering and the danger of dry-snow avalanches is expected to increase somewhat. Glide-snow avalanches continue to be possible.