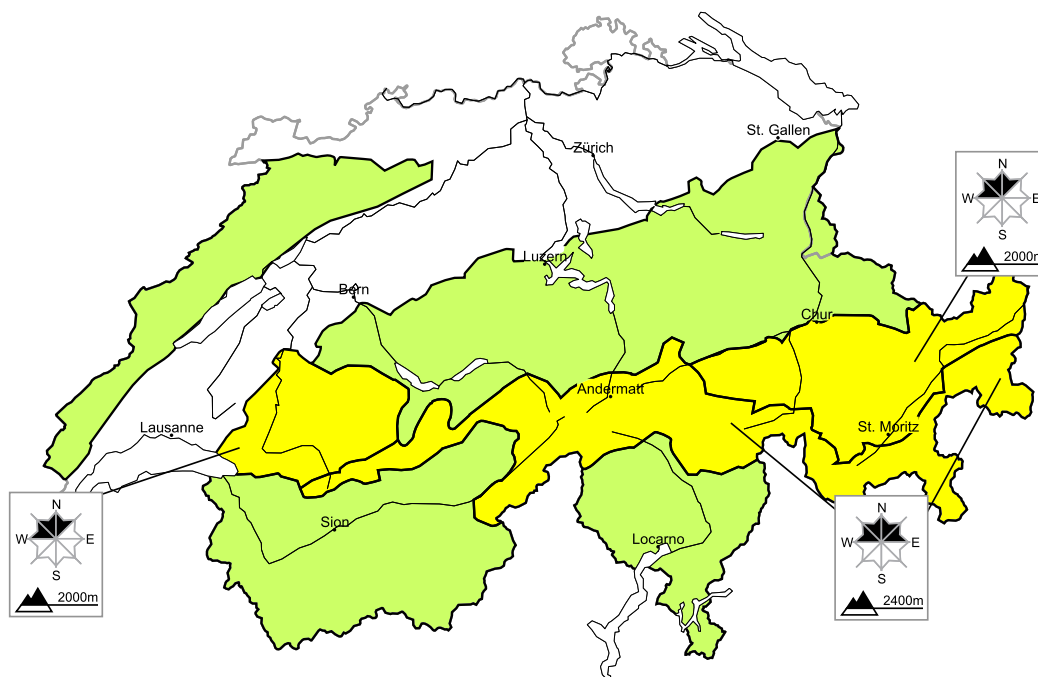


Gliding avalanches on south facing slopes. Wind slabs in the high Alpine regions

Edition: 23.2.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 23.2.2019, 17:00

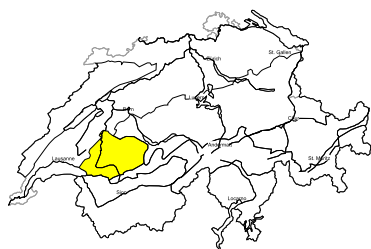
Dry avalanches

updated on 23.2.2019, 08:00



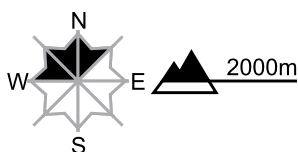
Dry, region A

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Faceted weak layers exist in the snowpack. In isolated cases avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered slopes and in areas close to the tree line. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

On west and north facing slopes small wind slabs will form. They will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. The wind slabs are to be avoided in extreme terrain.

Additional danger: Gliding avalanches (see 2nd map)

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

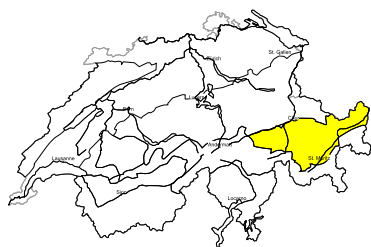
5 very high



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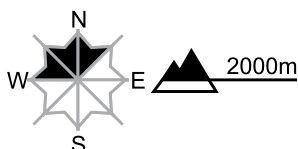
Dry, region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

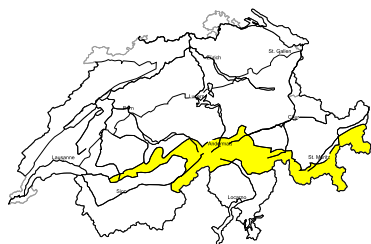
Faceted weak layers exist in the snowpack. In isolated cases avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered slopes and in areas close to the tree line. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Fresh wind slabs are to be found in particular at elevated altitudes, especially on steep west, north and east facing slopes. They are small. They are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. The wind slabs are to be avoided in particular in extreme terrain.

Additional danger: Gliding avalanches (see 2nd map)

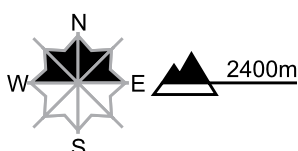
Dry, region C

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

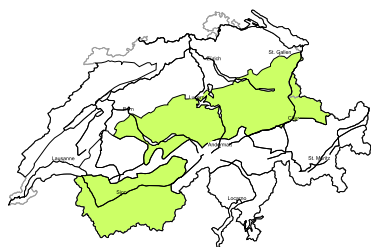
Fresh wind slabs are to be found on west, north and east facing slopes. They are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. They are small. The wind slabs are to be avoided in very steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Faceted weak layers exist in the snowpack. In very isolated cases avalanches can be released in the old snowpack. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered slopes and in areas close to the tree line. Extremely slopes are to be traversed by snow sport participants one at a time.

Additional danger: Gliding avalanches (see 2nd map)

Dry, region D

Level 1, low



Old snow, wind slabs

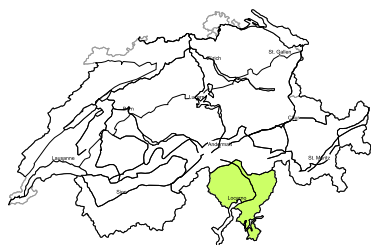
In very isolated cases avalanches can be released in the old snowpack. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow and in areas close to the tree line. Even a snow slide can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

Fresh wind slabs are to be found in particular in high Alpine regions, especially on steep west, north and east facing slopes. They are small. They are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. The wind slabs are to be avoided in extreme terrain.

Additional danger: Gliding avalanches (see 2nd map)

Dry, region E

Level 1, low



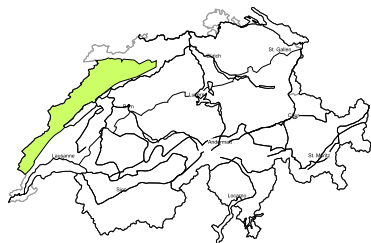
Wind slabs

As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, small wind slabs formed since Friday in particular on west, north and east facing slopes. These are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. They are to be avoided in extreme terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Additional danger: Gliding avalanches (see 2nd map)

Dry, region F

Level 1, low

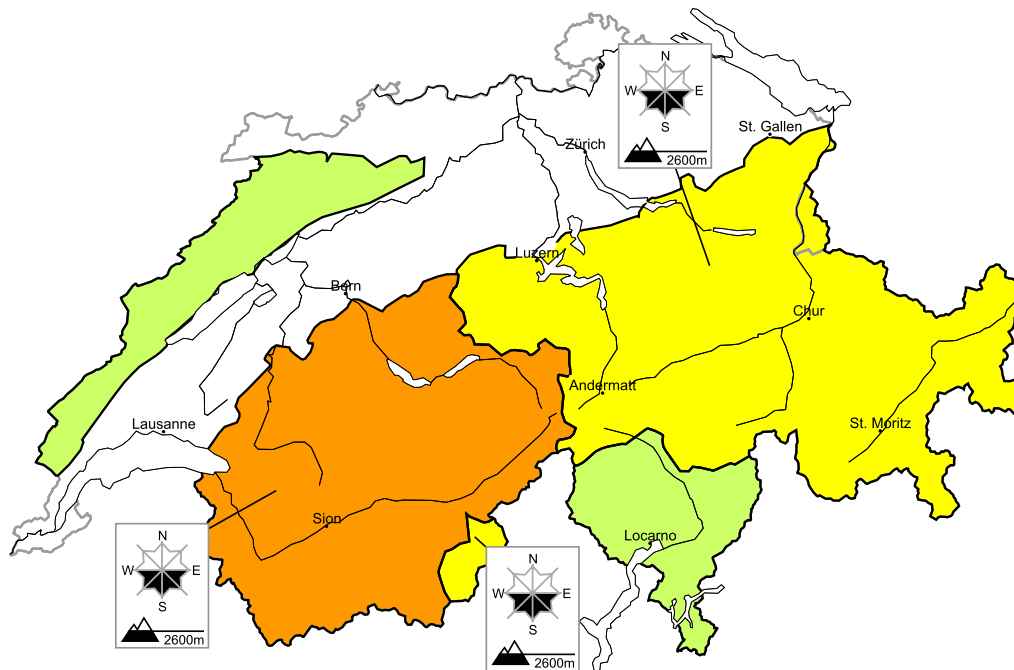


Hardly any more dry avalanches are possible.

Additional danger: Gliding avalanches (see 2nd map)

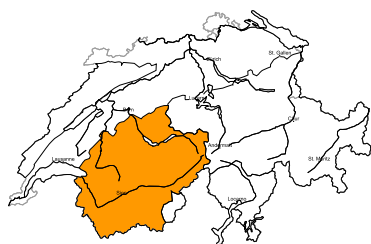
Gliding avalanches

updated on 23.2.2019, 08:00



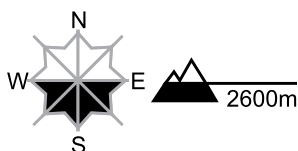
Gliding, region A

Level 3, considerable



Gliding avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



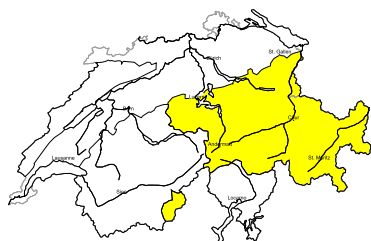
Danger description

Until the middle of the day, individual, then as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more gliding avalanches are to be expected. These can reach large size. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. Transportation routes situated at higher altitudes can be endangered in some cases.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

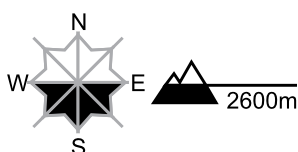
Gliding, region B

Level 2, moderate



Gliding avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Until the middle of the day, individual, then as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more gliding avalanches are to be expected. These can reach large size in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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Gliding, region C

Level 1, low



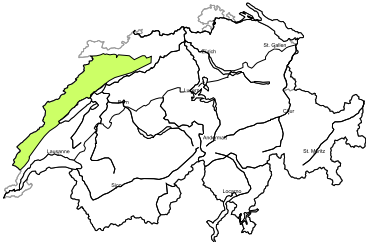
Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes individual mostly small gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2600 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Gliding, region D

Level 1, low



Gliding avalanches

On very steep grassy slopes individual small gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Snowpack and weather

updated on 22.2.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

During the nights with clear skies, a crust which is capable of bearing loads forms on south-facing slopes up to high altitudes. As a consequence of solar radiation and daytime warming, glide-snow avalanches can be expected on very steep, sunny slopes below approximately 2600 m more than anywhere else. In isolated cases, glide-snow avalanches can also release during the nocturnal hours. Glide-snow avalanches can in some cases grow to large size in certain places, particularly north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line and from northern Grisons into the northern part of the Lower Engadine.

On steep north-facing slopes the snowpack surface is frequently expansively metamorphosed (faceted) and loosely-bonded. On Friday on the Main Alpine Ridge and in general at high altitudes, small-sized snowdrift accumulations formed. These drifted masses were deposited on top of an unfavourable old snowpack surface on shady slopes in particular. In addition, in the middle section of the snow cover in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in Grisons there are metamorphosed (faceted), soft and weak layers evident. In isolated cases these weak layers are prone to triggering in places where the snow cover is shallow on shady slopes and in the vicinity of the timberline.

Observed weather on Friday, 22.02.2019

On Thursday night in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps it was partly cloudy; in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps as well as in northern and central Grisons and in the Engadine, skies were heavily overcast for the most part. During the daytime on Friday it was predominantly sunny in the western and southern regions, in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, as well as in northern and central Grisons, skies were predominantly overcast.

Fresh snow

In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps as well as in northern and central Grisons, there was a negligible amount of snowfall above approximately 1500 m.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +4 °C in the Valais and in the Ticino and 0 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

Nocturnal winds were northerly and increased in strength.

During the daytime

- on the northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge were blowing predominantly at moderate to strong velocity, in some places reaching storm strength;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, mostly at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 23.02.2019

Skies will be predominantly clear on Friday night. During the daytime on Saturday it will be mostly sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

Temperatures are expected to rise significantly. At midday at 2000 m they will be between +7 °C in the western regions, +3 °C in the southern regions, and 0 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

Winds will be easterly to northeasterly,

- blowing at strong velocity on the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons at high altitudes;
- in the other regions of Switzerland blowing mostly at moderate strength;
- on Friday night in the northern regions, intensifying bise wind will prevail, temporarily blowing at strong velocity further towards the west.

Outlook through Monday, 25.02.2019

On both days it will be sunny and mild. The highest temperatures are anticipated in the western regions. At high altitudes a moderate-strength, intermittently also strong-velocity easterly to northeasterly wind will be blowing. The danger of dry-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly. The danger of wet-snow and glide-snow avalanches will increase significantly during the course of each day.