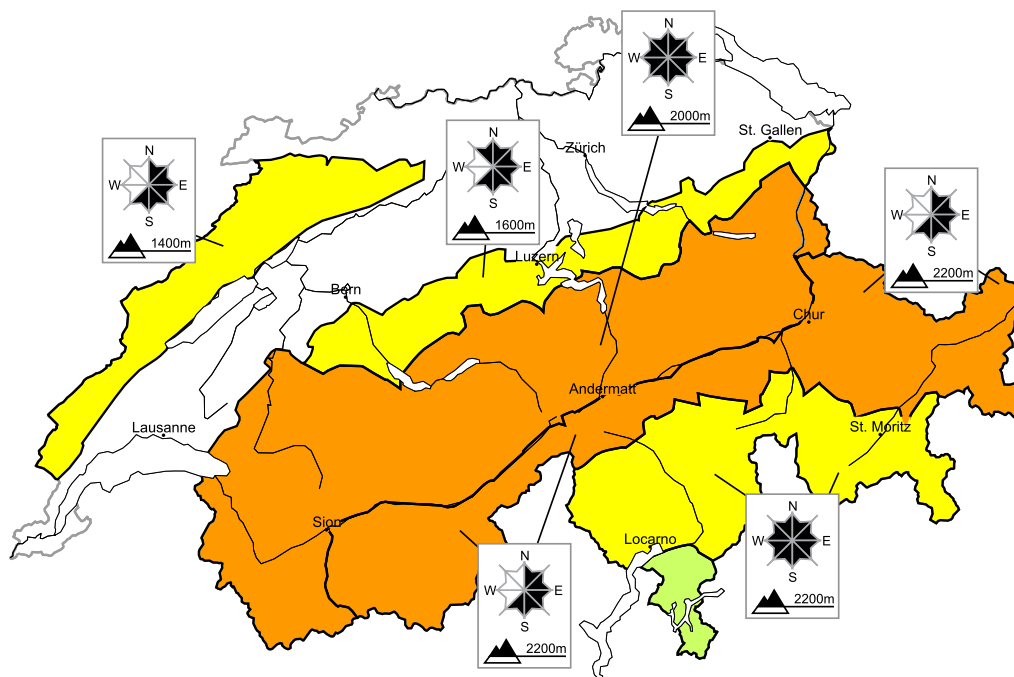


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 12.3.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 12.3.2019, 17:00

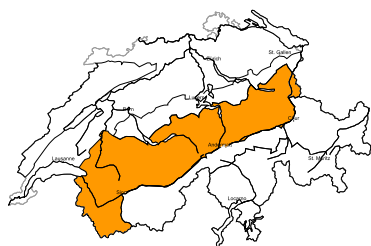
Avalanche danger

updated on 12.3.2019, 08:00



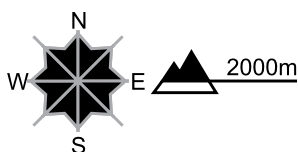
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow and snow drifts

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force wind from westerly directions, sometimes large wind slabs formed in the last few days. Fresh snow and wind slabs can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. Individual natural avalanches are possible, even quite large ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On steep east, south and west facing slopes moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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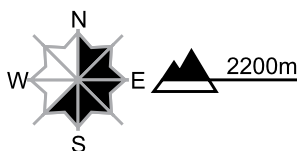
region B

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force wind from westerly directions, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last few days. These can in some places be released by small loads. The wind slabs are to be bypassed. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On steep east, south and west facing slopes moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses.

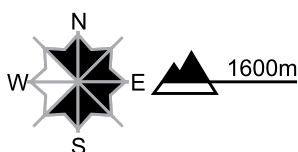
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

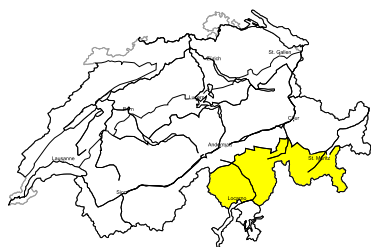
As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force wind from westerly directions, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last few days. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the 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.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On steep east, south and west facing slopes moist snow slides are to be expected as the day progresses.

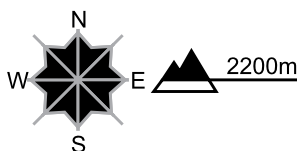
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

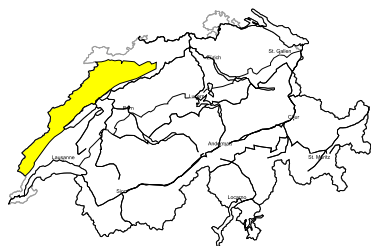
As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force wind from northwesterly directions, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last few days. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain,, also at a distance from ridgelines. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On steep east, south and west facing slopes moist snow slides are possible as the day progresses.

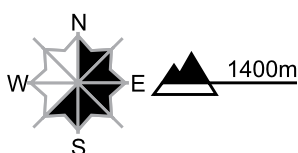
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

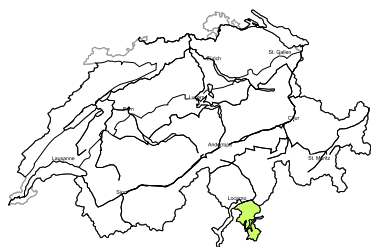
As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force wind from westerly directions, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last few days. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the 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.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On steep east, south and west facing slopes moist snow slides are possible as the day progresses.

region F

Level 1, low



In the vicinity of peaks only a little snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 11.3.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

Snowfall and strong to storm force westerly winds have given rise to fairly large snow drift accumulations since Saturday. They have been deposited on variable snow surfaces. The surface of the old snowpack and near-surface layers as well were highly faceted in some instances, in particular on north facing slopes sheltered from the wind and generally in areas with shallow snow cover. Here in particular the snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. Under the influence of the mild temperatures and solar radiation, on Tuesday the fresh snow is expected to give rise to moist snow slides on east, south and west facing steep slopes.

Observed weather on Monday, 11.03.2019

It was very cloudy with showery snowfall over a wide area. There were bright spells only in southern Upper Valais, central and southern Ticino and southern Grisons.

Fresh snow

The following amounts of snow fell in the period from Sunday afternoon until Monday afternoon:

- Extreme west of Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, Bernese Oberland, northern Alpine ridge: 15 to 30 cm, but more in some localities
- Jura, remaining parts of both Valais and the Gotthard region, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 5 to 15 cm
- Rest of the Prealps, remaining parts of both Ticino and Grisons: smaller amounts or remaining dry

Since the precipitation started on Saturday morning, therefore, the following amounts of snow have fallen above approximately 2400 m:

- Extreme west of Lower Valais, Bernese Oberland, northern Alpine ridge: 20 to 40 cm, but up to 60 cm in some places in Valais
- Jura, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, remaining parts of both Valais and the Gotthard region, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere: smaller amounts or none

Given the showery nature of the snowfall and the strong to storm force winds, regional differences in the amounts of fresh snow are especially substantial.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -8 °C in the north and -5 °C in the far south

Wind

From the west to northwest

- At elevated altitudes moderate to strong, occasionally storm force
- Otherwise mostly moderate

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 12.03.2019

On Monday night the precipitation will cease and the skies will clear from the west. During the day it will be fairly sunny, apart from residual cloud in the eastern parts of Grisons in the morning and high-altitude cloudbanks generally.

Fresh snow

By Tuesday morning the following amounts of snow will fall down to low altitudes:

- Northern Alpine ridge from the Aletsch to the Alpstein region, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 10 to 20 cm, but up to 30 cm in some localities
- Rest of the northern Alpine ridge, southern Valais, northern Ticino, central and southern Grisons: 5 to 10 cm
- Elsewhere: smaller amounts or none

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -1 °C in the west and -5 °C in the east and south

Wind

Remaining strong from the northwest during the night; mostly moderate from the west during the day

Outlook through Thursday, 14.03.2019

On both days in the north there will be variable to dense cloud cover with showers. In the east in particular there will also be sunny spells on Wednesday. It will be quite sunny in the south. There will be a strong and occasionally storm force wind from the west to northwest. The temperatures will become colder again.

The danger of dry avalanches will not change significantly. Moist snow slides are no longer to be expected.