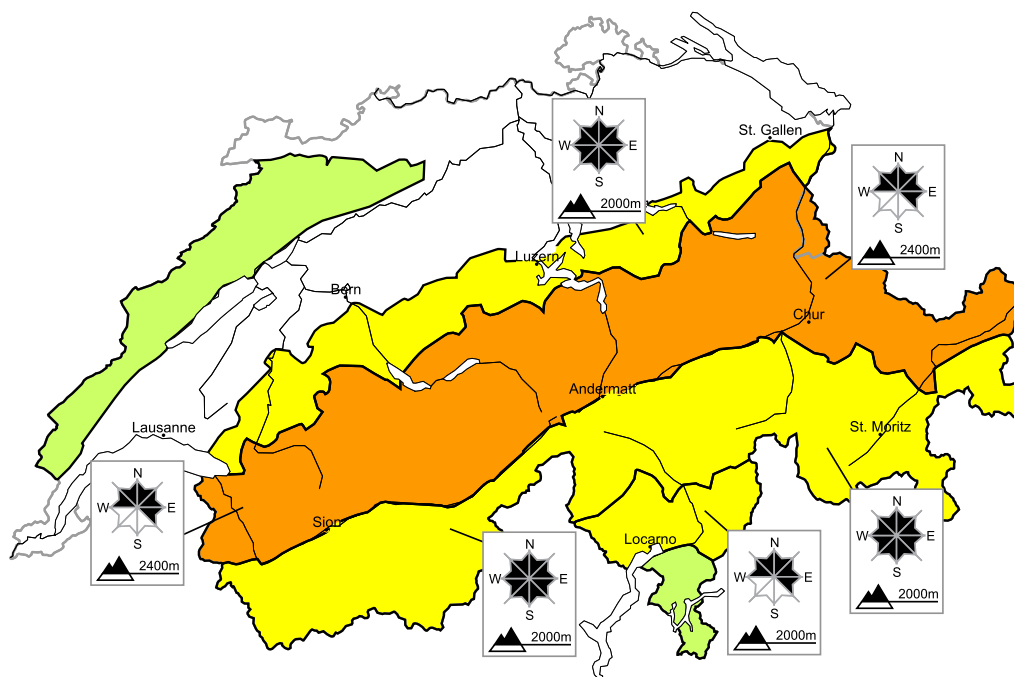


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Fresh wind slabs require caution

Edition: 17.3.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 17.3.2019, 17:00

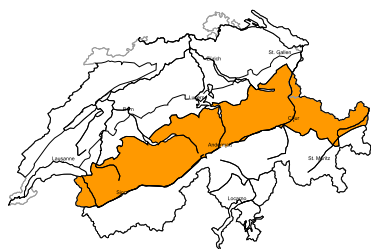
Avalanche danger

updated on 17.3.2019, 08:00



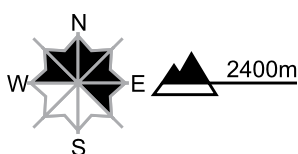
region A

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

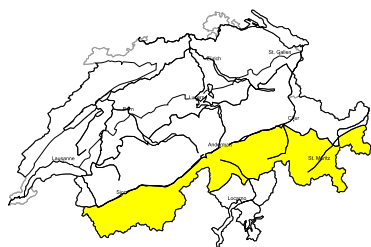
As a consequence of a strong southwesterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. The fresh wind slabs represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

In particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes wet and gliding avalanches are possible.

region B

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong southwesterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes. The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

In particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes wet and gliding avalanches are possible.

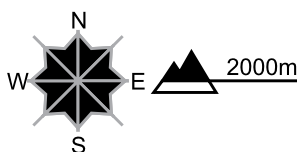
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

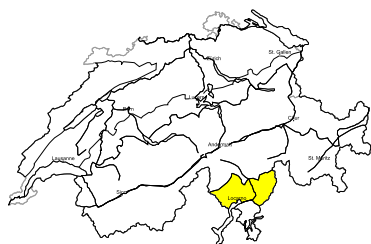
As a consequence of a strong southwesterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes. The fresh wind slabs represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

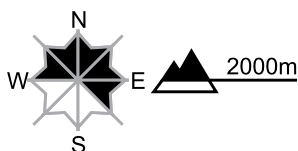
In particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes individual wet and gliding avalanches are possible.

region D

Level 2, moderate



Avalanche prone locations

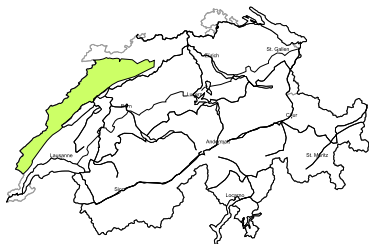


Danger description

In isolated cases avalanches can be released in near-surface layers. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region E

Level 1, low

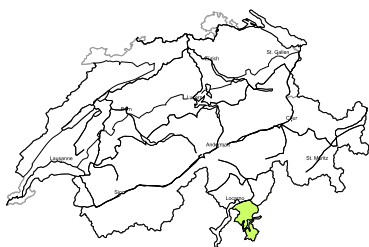


Wet avalanches as day progresses

As the day progresses individual wet snow slides and avalanches are possible. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

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 16.3.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

The masses of fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrift accumulations have settled and increasingly consolidated in many places, although on high-altitude north-facing slopes only incrementally. In areas adjacent to ridgelines, for the most part small-sized snowdrift accumulations were generated on Saturday. As a consequence of solar radiation and daytime warming, the snowpack surface on east, south and west-facing slopes was moistened up to high altitudes and formed a frequently breakable melt-freeze crust during the nighttime hours. As a result of the strong-velocity southwesterly winds on Sunday, snowdrift accumulations will be generated afresh, primarily on north and east-facing slopes.

The old snowpack beneath the layers of fresh snow of this week is well consolidated in many places, excluding on wind-protected north-facing slopes and wherever the snow is shallow. In those places, the old snowpack is expansively metamorphosed (faceted) to a great degree, as well as loosely-bonded.

Observed weather on Saturday, 16.03.2019

On Friday night, skies in the western regions gradually became increasingly clear, in the southern regions they were predominantly so. In the eastern regions, there was a small amount of snowfall above approximately 1600 m before skies cleared up in the early morning hours. During the daytime, it was sunny and mild for the most part.

Fresh snow

On Friday night, above approximately 1800 m:

- eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Lower Engadine: 5 to 15 cm;
- in other regions of the north, only a few centimetres.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in the northern regions and +6 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

During the nighttime hours, winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity, slackening off during the daytime to predominantly moderate strength, from westerly to northwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 17.03.2019

Skies on Saturday night will be predominantly clear. During the daytime on Sunday, it will be sunny to start with, due to foehn wind influence. In the southern and western regions, cloud cover will move in during the course of the day. In the afternoon, light precipitation will set in from the west during the afternoon. The snowfall level will lie at 1200 m.

Fresh snow

Jura region, Chablais, Prealps: only a few centimetres.

Temperature

- It will be quite mild during the nocturnal hours, zero-degree level at 3000 m;
- temperatures will subsequently drop during the course of the day, at 2000 m at midday to between 0 °C in western and southern regions and +3 °C in eastern regions.

Wind

Winds will be southwesterly, blowing at strong velocity in northern regions, at predominantly moderate velocity in southern regions.

Outlook through Tuesday, 19.03.2019

On Sunday night, a small amount of precipitation is anticipated over widespread areas. The snowfall level is expected to descend to approximately 600 m. During the daytime on both days, skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by snow showers and sunny intervals. In the southern regions it will be predominantly sunny as a consequence of northerly winds. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will diminish slightly in western regions on Monday, in the other regions of Switzerland avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly. On Tuesday, avalanche danger will diminish in all regions. The danger of wet-snow and glide-snow avalanches will recede as temperatures drop.