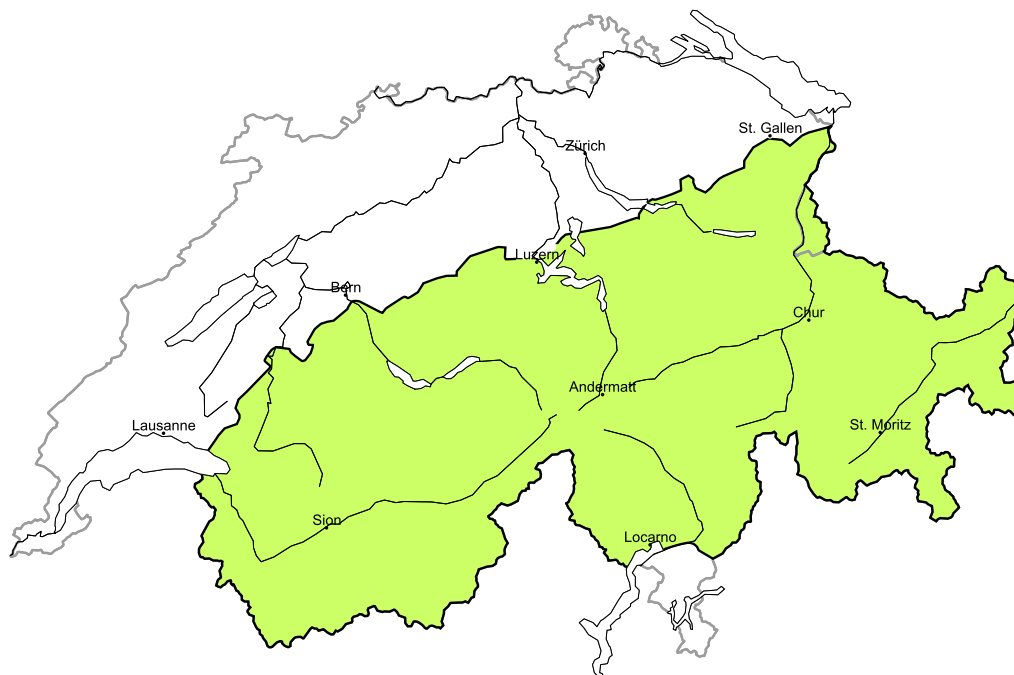


In the early morning a favourable avalanche situation will prevail. Wet avalanches as the day progresses

Edition: 21.4.2019, 17:00 / Next update: 22.4.2019, 17:00

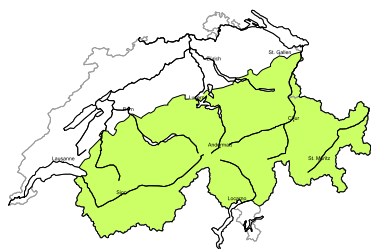
Dry avalanches

updated on 21.4.2019, 17:00



Dry

Level 1, low



Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found especially on extremely steep north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. As a consequence of a strengthening southerly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form in particular above approximately 2600 m. 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.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

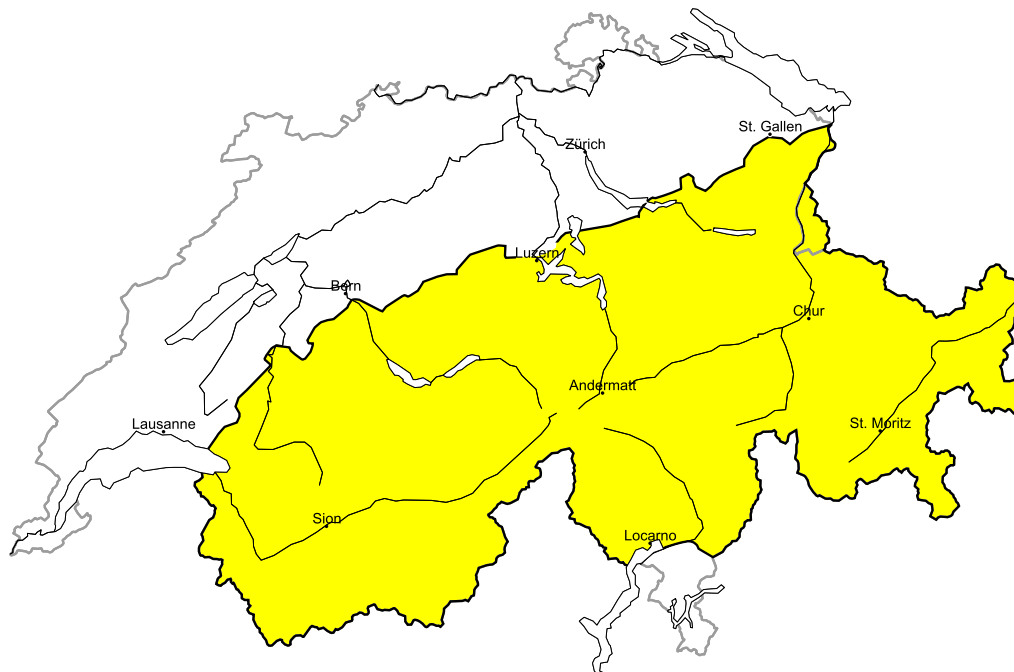
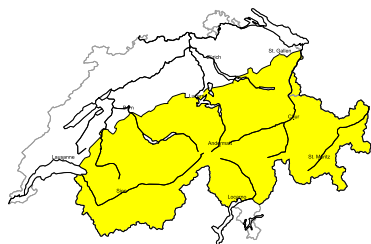
5 very high



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Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 21.4.2019, 17:00

**Wet****Level 2, moderate**

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day, the likelihood of wet and gliding avalanches being released will increase. Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large avalanches are possible. This applies on very steep south facing slopes below approximately 3400 m as well as on north facing slopes below approximately 2600 m. On very steep east and west facing slopes the avalanche prone locations are to be found below approximately 3000 m.

Backcountry tours and off-piste skiing should be concluded timely.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.4.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

The snow cover is favourably structured for the most part and, during the morning hours, stable.

The snowpack is becoming thoroughly wet to an ever greater degree. North-facing slopes are thoroughly wet up to approximately 2400 m, south-facing slopes up as high as high alpine regions, east-facing and west-facing slopes up to approximately 2800 m. What is currently most critical are the altitude bands and aspects which have become moist for the first time, that is, north-facing slopes between 2200 and 2600 m, and east and west-facing slopes between 2600 and 3000 m. In those regions, increasingly frequent area-wide, moist slab avalanches have been registered. During the nighttime hours, a crust forms on the snowpack surface. As a consequence of the reduced nocturnal outgoing (longwave) radiation, the crust at intermediate altitudes is hardly capable of bearing loads. The melt-freeze crust then softens and melts during the course of the day and the danger of wet-snow avalanches increases. However, due to dense cloud cover, it no longer melts to the same degree as in the last few days. On north-facing slopes on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons above 1000 m to 1400 m, in the other regions of Switzerland above 1400 m to 1800 m, there is a cohesive, area-wide snowpack. On south-facing slopes the snow levels lie approximately 400 m higher up.

Observed weather on Sunday, 21.04.2019

During the night, high-altitude cloud cover moved in from the south, which tended to reduce the outgoing radiation somewhat. During the daytime, it was only partly sunny as a consequence of the intermittently heavy cloud cover in western regions more than anywhere else.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +8 °C in the western regions and +6 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

Winds were southeasterly,

- on the northern Alpine Ridge blowing at moderate to strong velocity,
- in the other regions of Switzerland, blowing at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Monday, 22.04.2019

Nighttime skies in the Valais will be predominantly overcast, in the other regions variably cloudy. During the daytime it will be partly sunny accompanied by heavy cloud cover in some regions and intermediate altitude clouds. The clouds will tend to become heavier in the afternoon in the western and the southern regions more than anywhere else. Nevertheless, it is expected to remain predominantly dry until evening.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +8 °C in the northern regions and +5 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be southerly,

- blowing predominantly at moderate strength,
- blowing at strong velocity on the northern Alpine Ridge, extending down to low lying areas in the foehn-exposed Alpine valleys.

Outlook through Wednesday, 24.04.2019

On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, skies will be heavily overcast and repeated bouts of precipitation are anticipated. The snowfall level will lie at approximately 2000 m. The southerly winds will be blowing at strong velocity, on Wednesday even reaching storm strength. In the northern regions, foehn wind will extend down to low lying areas. By Wednesday evening in the Upper Valais section of the Main Alpine Ridge and on the southern flank of the Alps above approximately 2500 m, 40 to 60 cm of fresh snow is anticipated; in the Monte Rosa region even more. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will increase significantly at high altitudes in those regions. In the northern regions, a small amount of fresh snow is possible in high alpine regions more than anywhere else. The danger of wet-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly.