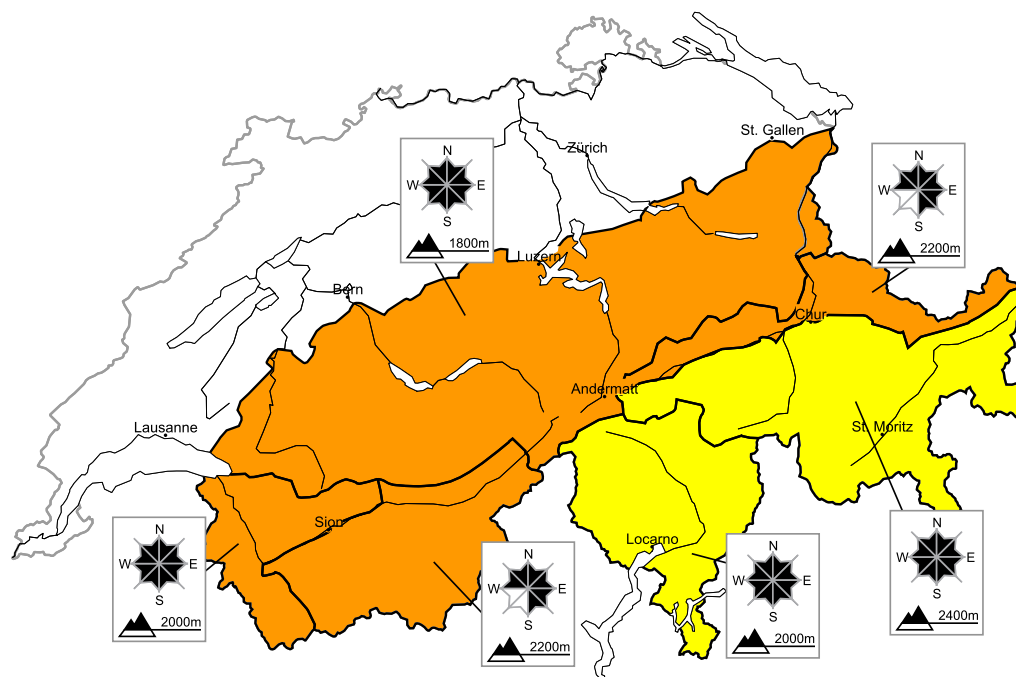


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 30.11.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 30.11.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 30.11.2019, 08:00



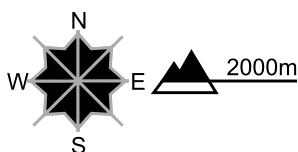
region A

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can in some cases penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach large size, in particular on shady slopes above approximately 2600 m. The off-piste conditions are critical. Restraint is advisable on this first sunny day.

Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses.

region B

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

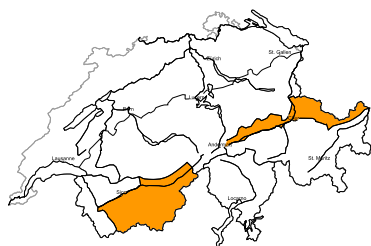
The fresh snow and wind slabs of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach large size, in particular on shady slopes above approximately 2600 m. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Restraint is advisable on this first sunny day.

Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides are to be expected as the day progresses.

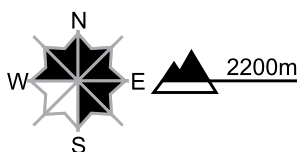
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and northwesterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed during the night. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach large size, in particular on shady slopes above approximately 2600 m. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks. On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides are possible.

region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

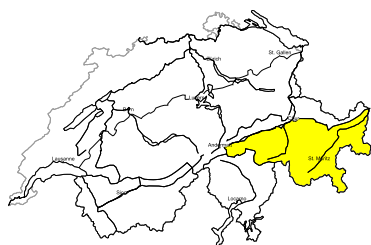
As a consequence of northerly wind, wind slabs formed during the night. These are mostly small but can be released easily. They are to be avoided in steep terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

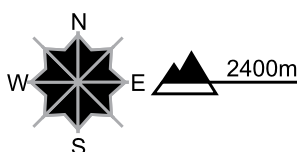
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh wind slabs are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls as well as in the high Alpine regions. These are prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Faceted weak layers exist in the centre of the snowpack in particular on shady slopes, especially above approximately 2600 m. These avalanche prone locations are rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Here avalanches can in isolated cases reach large size. Careful route selection is recommended.

Gliding avalanches

On steep grassy slopes small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 29.11.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

Southern flank of the Alps: the deep, thick snowpack is favourably layered. The main danger stems from freshly generated snowdrift accumulations.

Remaining regions of Switzerland: the main danger stems from fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts. The fresh fallen snow from the last three days has been deposited on top of an irregularly structured old snowpack which was generated by winds and warmth. Whereas in the furthestmost western regions, on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, there is significantly more snow than is customary for this juncture of the season, the snowpack from the Bernese Oberland over central Switzerland as far as Liechtenstein is still shallow. Above approximately 2600 m north of the Main Alpine Ridge, in particular on shady slopes, there are cohesive, area-wide, expansively metamorphosed (faceted) layers of snow in the middle part of the snowpack which could serve as potential weak layers. Apart from this, the snowpack layering tends to be relatively favourable.

Gliding avalanches are possible in all regions of Switzerland below 2400 m. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, these gliding avalanches release relatively seldom, but in isolated cases they grow to large size.

Observed weather on Friday, 29.11.2019

On the Main Alpine Ridge and northwards therefrom, skies were overcast, accompanied by repeated bouts of snowfall; south of the Main Alpine Ridge, it was predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon there was snowfall, with a snowfall level at 1200 to 1500 m in the northern and furthestmost western parts of the Lower Valais, which brought 20 to 50 cm of fresh snow; in the other regions on the northern flank of the Alps and in the northern part of the Upper Valais, there was 20 to 30 cm; in the remaining regions of Switzerland, there was less snowfall. Thus, since the beginning of this period of precipitation on Tuesday night, there have been the following amounts of fresh snow registered above 1800 m:

- furthestmost western part of the Lower Valais: 70 to 100 cm;
- Vaud Alps and northern part of the Lower Valais: 50 to 80 cm;
- remaining parts of western Lower Valais, as well as in the Fribourg Alps and the furthestmost western part of the Bernese Alps: 30 to 50 cm;
- in the remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in the northern part of Upper Valais and in the Gotthard region: 20 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; in the furthestmost eastern regions of Grisons, only a few centimetres.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the northern regions and 0 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds were westerly, shifting to northwesterly in the afternoon,

- blowing at moderate to strong velocity on the northern flank of the Alps and in general at high altitudes;
- blowing at light to moderate strength in the other regions of Switzerland.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 30.11.2019

In the latter part of Friday night, the snowfall is expected to come to an end, including in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps in the early morning hours of Saturday. In the mountains it is expected to become increasingly sunny from the west. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be sunny starting in the early morning.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level in the western regions will lie at approximately 1200 m, in the eastern regions at 800 m. By Saturday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:

- northern flank of the Alps, northern part of Prättigau: 15 to 30 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland: generally 5 to 15 cm; on the southern flank of the Alps, less; or else it will remain dry.

Temperature

Temperatures are expected to rise, starting in the west, during the course of the day. At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the western regions, -2 °C in the southern regions, and -4 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

- On Friday night and during the morning hours of Saturday, strong-velocity northwesterly winds are anticipated in the mountains; in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps reaching down to the valley floors.
- During the afternoon, light to moderate westerly winds will prevail.

Outlook through Monday, 02.12.2019

Sunday

Skies will be overcast for the most part, and snowfall is expected to set in from the west and from the south. In the eastern regions, it is expected to remain dry until well into the afternoon as a result of foehn influence. A strong-velocity southwesterly wind will be blowing. In the northern regions, the zero-degree level will lie at 2000 m. The avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Monday

To begin with, skies will be heavily overcast, accompanied by a small amount of snowfall which will extend down to low lying areas. During the course of the day, bright intervals from the west are anticipated. In the southern regions it will be rather sunny as a result of northerly winds. The avalanche danger levels are expected to incrementally decrease in the western and the northern regions in particular.