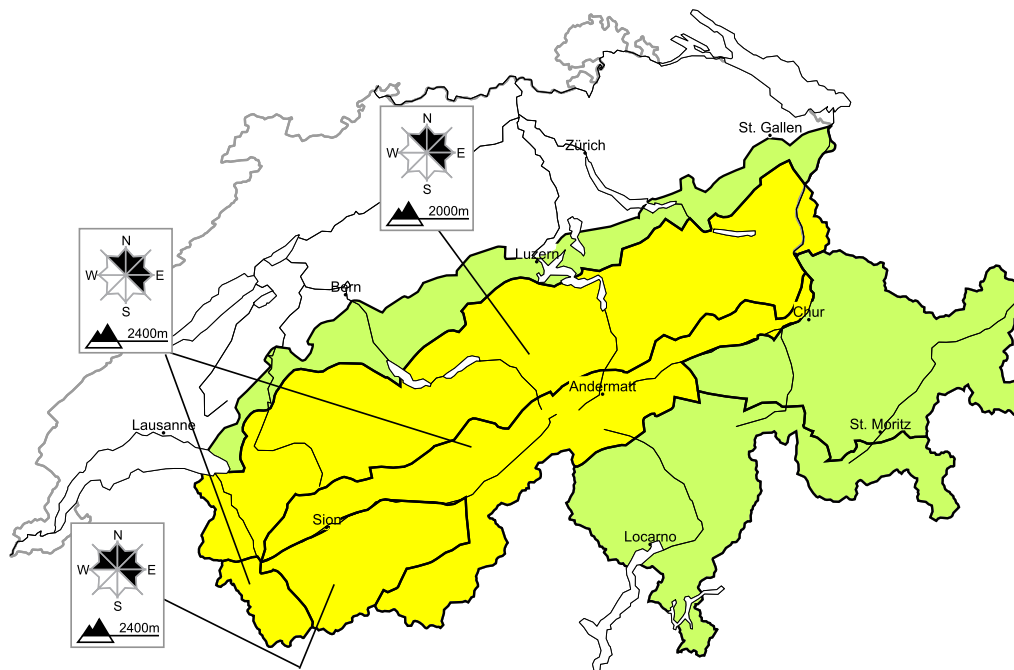


Fresh wind slabs require caution

Edition: 6.12.2019, 17:00 / Next update: 7.12.2019, 17:00

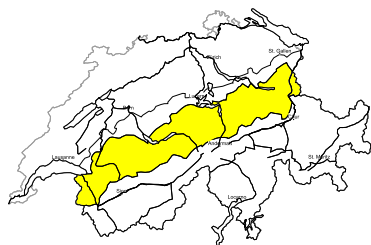
Avalanche danger

updated on 6.12.2019, 17:00



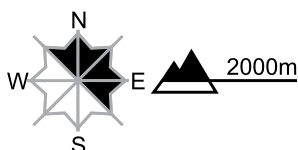
region A

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong westerly wind, wind slabs will form during the course of the night. These represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. The wind slabs are to be bypassed as far as possible.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

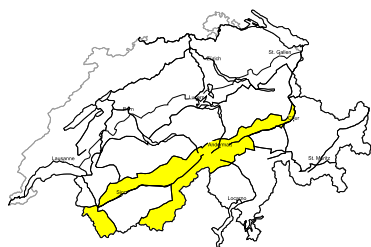
5 very high



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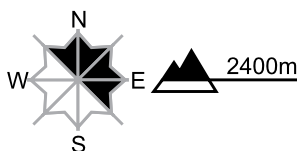
region B

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong westerly wind, wind slabs will form during the course of the night. These represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. The wind slabs are to be bypassed especially in very steep terrain.

Gliding avalanches

On steep grassy slopes small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

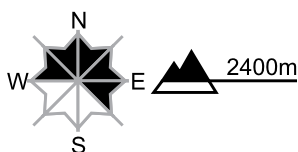
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

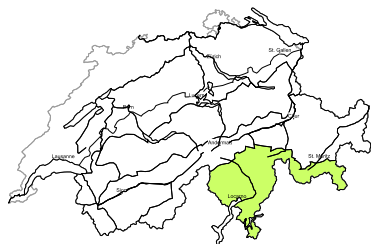


Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate to strong westerly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form especially adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas as well as at elevated altitudes. These are to be avoided in very steep terrain. Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in the old snowpack. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Careful route selection is recommended.

region D

Level 1, low



Dry avalanches: No distinct avalanche problem

At elevated altitudes for the time of year, a very large amount of snow is lying. The old snowpack will be favourable over a wide area.

As a consequence of a sometimes strong wind, small wind slabs will form in some localities. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.

High Alpine regions: Moderate avalanche danger will prevail.

Careful route selection is recommended.

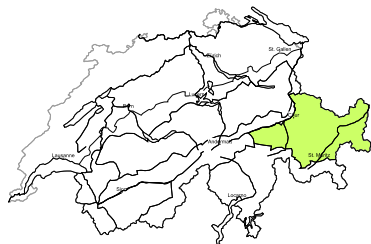
The Avalanche Warning Service currently has only a small amount of information that has been collected in the high Alpine regions, so that the avalanche danger should be investigated especially thoroughly in the relevant locality.

Gliding avalanches

On steep grassy slopes small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region E

Level 1, low

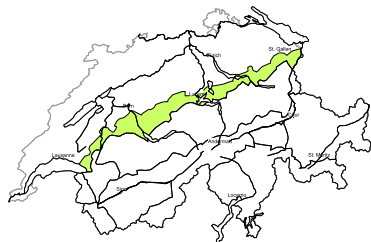
**No distinct avalanche problem**

As a consequence of a sometimes strong westerly wind, small wind slabs will form in some localities. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. Faceted weak layers exist in the centre of the snowpack in particular on shady slopes, especially above approximately 2400 m. These avalanche prone locations are very rare but are barely recognisable. Extremely slopes are to be traversed by snow sport participants one at a time.

The Avalanche Warning Service currently has only a small amount of information that has been collected in the high Alpine regions, so that the avalanche danger should be investigated especially thoroughly in the relevant locality.

region F

Level 1, low

**Wind slabs**

Thus far only a little snow is lying.

As a consequence of a strong southwesterly wind, small wind slabs will form during the night in some localities. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence especially in very steep terrain.

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.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 6.12.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of moderate to strong velocity winds, mostly small-sized snowdrift accumulations are being generated in pass and ridgeline areas. These snowdrifts are being deposited on top of an expansively metamorphosed (faceted) and unfavourable snowpack surface, and can be easily triggered.

The snow cover on the Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon region as far as the Bernina Pass and southwards therefrom is favourably structured and deep. North of the Main Alpine Ridge, the old snowpack is not as deep, but is also favourably layered. Especially above approximately 2400 m in the inneralpine regions, and particularly on shady slopes, there are cohesive, area-wide layers of expansively metamorphosed (faceted) crystals evident in the middle section of the snowpack. However, no avalanches have been reported in the last few days which triggered from these weak layers. In the furthestmost western part of the Valais and in the regions of the south where recent snowfall has been heaviest, glide cracks are still opening in the snowpack surface, and gliding avalanches are still being released.

Observed weather on Friday, 06.12.2019

It was sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, around +2 °C.

Wind

On the northern flank of the Alps at high altitudes, as well as in the Prealps in general, winds were blowing at moderate velocity, in the other regions predominantly at light strength, from westerly to southwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 07.12.2019

In the latter part of the night and during the morning hours on Saturday, some snowfall is possible on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons above 1400 m. In the Valais and in central and southern Grisons, it is expected to remain dry for the most part. It will become increasingly sunny during the course of the day in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais. In the southern regions it will remain sunny and dry.

Fresh snow

In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps: maximum 5 cm; in the other regions of Switzerland, mostly dry.

Temperature

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

Wind

- In the northern regions: winds will be blowing at strong to storm velocity during the nocturnal hours from southwesterly to westerly directions; slackening off somewhat during the daytime.
- in the southern regions, winds at high altitudes will be blowing at strong velocity during the night, otherwise blowing at light to moderate strength, from westerly to northwesterly directions.

Outlook through Monday, 09.12.2019

On Sunday morning in all regions of Switzerland, it will still be quite sunny to start with. During the course of the day, cloud cover will move in from the west. On Sunday afternoon in the Jura, in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Lower Valais, snowfall is expected to set in.

On Sunday night and during the daytime on Monday, snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas which in western regions will be intensive. The snowfall level will drop down to low lying areas. It is expected to remain dry only in the furthestmost southern regions.

The avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly on Sunday. On Monday as a result of fresh snow and strong velocity winds, danger levels are expected to increase over widespread areas.