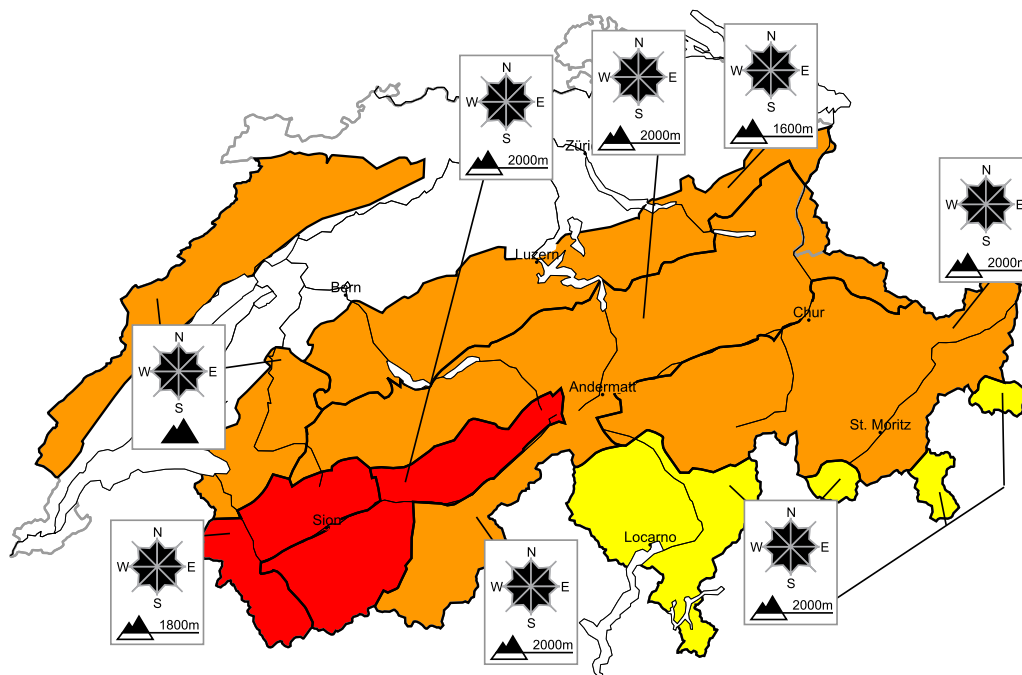


In the west a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 14.12.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 14.12.2019, 17:00

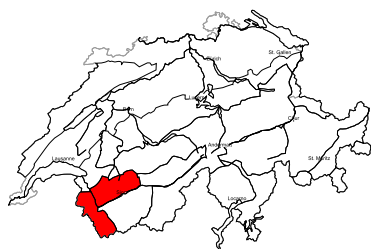
Avalanche danger

updated on 14.12.2019, 08:00



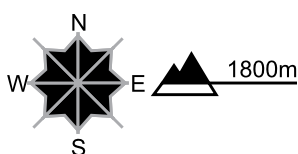
region A

Level 4, high



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force wind, extensive wind slabs will form. These are prone to triggering. Avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack. Large to very large natural avalanches are to be expected. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in some cases. The conditions are very critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes.

Wet avalanches

Moist avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of the rain. This applies below approximately 1800 m. In addition gliding avalanches are possible.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

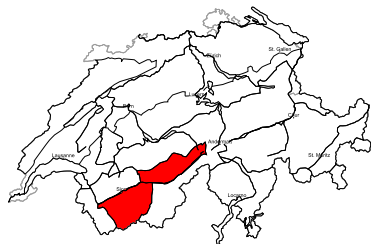
5 very high



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region B

Level 4, high



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack. Medium-sized and large natural avalanches are to be expected. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for great caution and restraint.

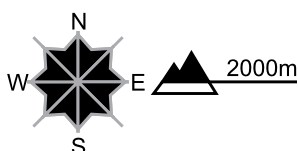
region C

Level 3, considerable



Fresh snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force wind, extensive wind slabs will form. The fresh snow and wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily. In addition medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large natural avalanches are to be expected. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Wet avalanches

Below approximately 1800 m moist snow slides and avalanches are possible.

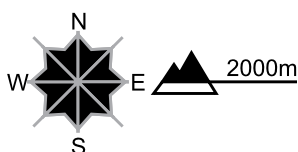
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the sometimes storm force wind the wind slabs will increase in size. The fresh snow and wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. In some places avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack and reach medium size. Whumping sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.



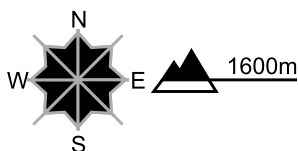
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

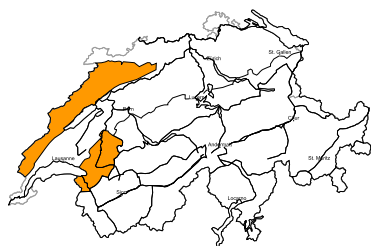
As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force westerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form in particular above the tree line. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches

Below approximately 1600 m moist snow slides and avalanches are possible.

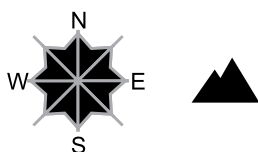
region F

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

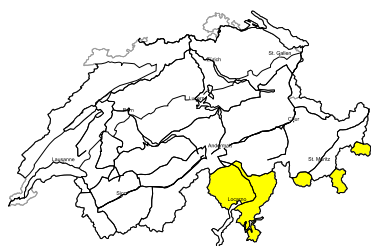
As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form above approximately 1400 m. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized dry avalanches are possible.

As a consequence of the rain moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected below approximately 1400 m.

Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

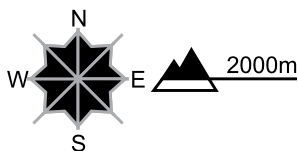
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are prone to triggering. Mostly the avalanches are only small but in some cases easily released. Caution is to be exercised in particular on wind-loaded slopes.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 13.12.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

In the middle part of the snowpack, expansively metamorphosed (faceted) and loosely-packed layers of snow crystals are evident. These are prone to triggering. Furthermore, in some places avalanches can fracture down to more deeply embedded, weak layers inside the snow cover, particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons. In the southern regions, in the Prealps and in the Jura, the snowpack layering is favourable.

As a result of fresh snow and storm-strength winds, both the fresh fallen and the old snow will be transported. Summits and crests will be windblown completely bare of snow, and snowdrift accumulations will be freshly generated particularly on slopes distant from ridgelines in gullies and bowls. In the major areas of precipitation, the snowdrift accumulations are large-sized.

Observed weather on Friday, 13.12.2019

Skies were heavily overcast and there were repeated bouts of precipitation.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level on the southern flank of the Alps and in the Valais was in low lying areas. In the other regions of Switzerland it lay between 800 and 1200 m. Since Wednesday evening, the following amounts of fresh snow have been registered:

- furthestmost western part of Lower Valais and northern Valais: 40 to 60 cm;
- central part of the Valais and remaining parts of the Lower Valais: 30 to 40 cm;
- western and central sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, southern part of Upper Valais, Bedretto valley: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C.

Wind

- During the morning in the mountains and the Jura heights, strong to storm-strength southwesterly winds will be blowing; in the Alpine valleys, temporary foehn impact;
- during the afternoon, blowing generally at moderate to strong velocity, shifting to westerly and then to northwesterly.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 14.12.2019

Following a short pause in the precipitation in the early part of the nocturnal hours on Saturday, it will again start to snow on the Main Alpine Ridge and northwards therefrom. During the daytime on Saturday there will be dry phases, to begin with in the western regions, subsequently also in the eastern regions, with bright intervals. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be predominantly sunny during the daytime, accompanied by northerly winds.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level could ascend temporarily to 1800 m in the furthestmost western regions on Friday night, but is expected to lie between 1100 and 1500 m in the other regions of Switzerland. The following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated by Saturday afternoon:

- furthestmost western part of Lower Valais along the French border: 30 to 50 cm;
- Northern Alpine Ridge, remaining parts of Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Upper Valais, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland further to the south: less than 10 cm; in the furthestmost southern regions it is expected to remain dry.

Temperature

During the night, temperatures will swiftly rise, starting in the west, subsequently dropping somewhat in the northern regions. At midday at 2000 m: between -4 °C in the northern regions and -1 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be blowing at strong to storm strength from west to northwest.

Outlook through Monday, 16.12.2019

Sunday

In the northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1800 m in the early morning hours, subsequently it will become predominantly sunny in the mountains. In the southern regions it will be rather sunny. Winds will be blowing at generally strong to storm velocity from west to southwest. The avalanche danger levels are expected to decrease only slowly.

Monday

In the southern regions, the cloud cover will become dense and in the afternoon, snowfall is expected to set in above approximately 1300 m. In the northern regions it will be quite sunny and mild, as a result of increasing foehn influence. Avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly. At intermediate altitudes in the northern regions, increasingly frequent moist slides and gliding avalanches will be possible.