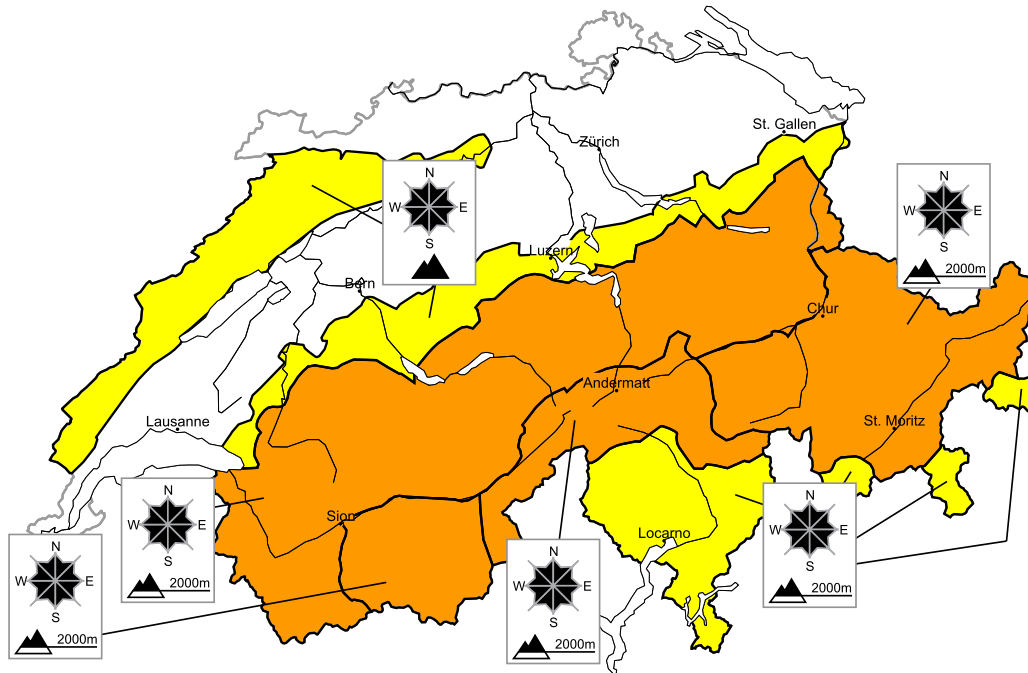


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

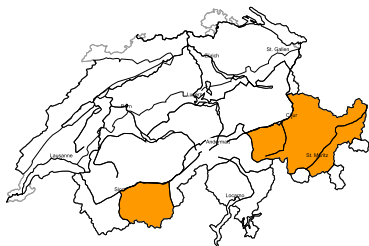
Edition: 15.12.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 15.12.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 15.12.2019, 08:00

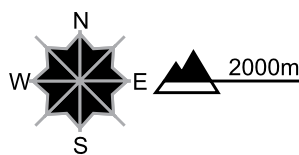


region A Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

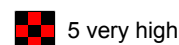
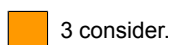
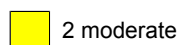
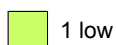
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Over a wide area various wind slab layers are lying on a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow, even by a single winter sport participant. In addition individual natural avalanches are possible. The avalanches can release the entire snowpack and reach a dangerous size. Whumpung 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.

Danger levels



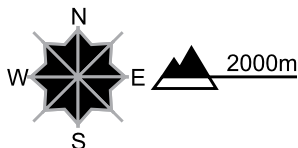
region B

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Wind slabs can especially at their margins be released by people. In some places avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. In addition individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible.

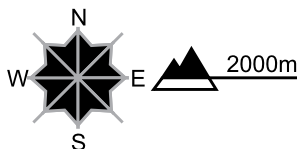
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

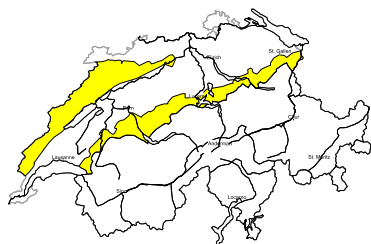


Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. Caution is to be exercised at their margins in particular. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

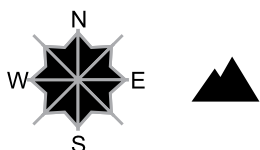
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wet and full-depth avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible.

In addition the somewhat older wind slabs should be taken into account. This applies in particular at elevated altitudes. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

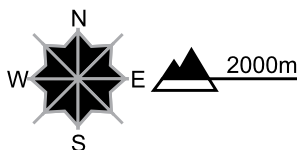
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases 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 14.12.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

The snowpack surface and snow distribution generally manifest pronounced effects from storm-strength winds. Summits and crests have been windblown, are completely bare of snow. Snowdrift accumulations have been deposited on slopes far distant from ridgelines, in gullies and bowls more than anywhere else. As a result of higher temperatures and rainfall the snowpack was moistened on Saturday. This applies to the Jura region and to the furthestmost western regions of the Alps up to approximately 2000 m, otherwise on the northern flank of the Alps up to approximately 1600 m.

In the southern regions, in the Prealps and in the Jura region, the snowpack layering is favourable. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, there are expansively metamorphosed (faceted) layers of snow crystals evident in the middle section of the snow cover over widespread areas. These layers are prone to triggering, particularly when they have been covered only shallowly by fresh fallen snow. Furthermore, avalanches can in some places fracture down to more deeply embedded weak layers inside the old snowpack, particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons.

Observed weather on Saturday, 14.12.2019

On Saturday morning, skies were heavily overcast for the most part. Later on there were bright intervals, particularly on the southern flank of the Alps, in Grisons, in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Jura region. In the Valais there was light snowfall from place to place, extending into the afternoon.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level ascended in the Jura region, the Vaud and Fribourg Alps and in the western part of the Lower Valais to nearly 2000 m; in the other regions on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais to approximately 1600 m. On the southern flank of the Alps and in Grisons the snowfall level lay at approximately 1000 m or below. Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered: in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps and from place to place in the Valais, in the Urner and Glarner Alps, 20 to 40 cm; in the other parts of the northern flank of the Alps generally 10 to 20 cm; in the Jura region, in the Ticino and in Grisons, there was less snowfall, or else it remained completely dry. Between Wednesday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, the following overall amounts of fresh snow were registered:

- western and northern parts of the Lower Valais well into the Lötschental: 60 to 80 cm;
- Vaud and Fribourg Alps, furthestmost western part of Bernese Oberland, remaining parts of the Lower Valais, northern Upper Valais, eastern part of Bernese Oberland and from the Urner into the Glarner Alps: 40 to 60 cm;
- western part of Jura region, remaining parts of northern flank of the Alps, southern Gotthard region, northern Grisons: 20 to 40 cm;
- eastern part of Jura region, remaining parts of the Ticino and Grisons: less than 20 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C on the northern flank of the Alps and 0 °C in the remaining regions of Switzerland.

Wind

Winds were westerly, shifting to northwesterly in the latter part of the afternoon,

- in the Jura region, on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais, blowing at strong to storm velocity;
- in the Ticino and in Grisons, blowing predominantly at moderate strength; at high altitudes at strong velocity.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 15.12.2019

On Saturday night, skies will be variably cloudy, but next to no precipitation is anticipated. During the daytime on Sunday, skies will be partly overcast in the southern regions, in the northern regions it will be quite sunny.

Fresh snow

In the western regions, only a few centimetres; in the other regions of Switzerland, it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +3 °C in the northern regions and -3 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be westerly to southwesterly, slackening off during the course of the day,

- in the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, winds will be blowing at strong to storm strength, towards evening in the Alpine valleys some foehn wind is expected to arise;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity at high altitudes.

Outlook through Tuesday, 17.12.2019

In the southern regions, skies will be heavily overcast and precipitation is expected to set in during the morning hours of Monday. On Tuesday, skies will be heavily overcast, accompanied by precipitation which will be heavy in the Upper Valais sector of the Main Alpine Ridge and in western Ticino. The snowfall level is expected to ascend to 1400 to 1600 m. In the northern regions, skies will be overcast in the vicinity of the Main Alpine Ridge on both days from the south, accompanied by a small amount of precipitation; further to the north it will be quite sunny. On Monday, storm-strength winds are expected to arise in some parts of the Alpine valleys, in the mountains a strong to storm-strength southerly to southwesterly wind will be blowing. In the foehn-influenced regions along the northern flank of the Alps it will be significantly warmer, with temperatures approaching +10° C at 2000 m on Monday.

Avalanche danger levels are expected to increase significantly from place to place in the southern regions. In the northern regions, avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly, the situation will be heavily affected by storm-strength winds. Under all circumstances, the higher temperatures will make increasingly frequent wet-snow and gliding avalanches expected.