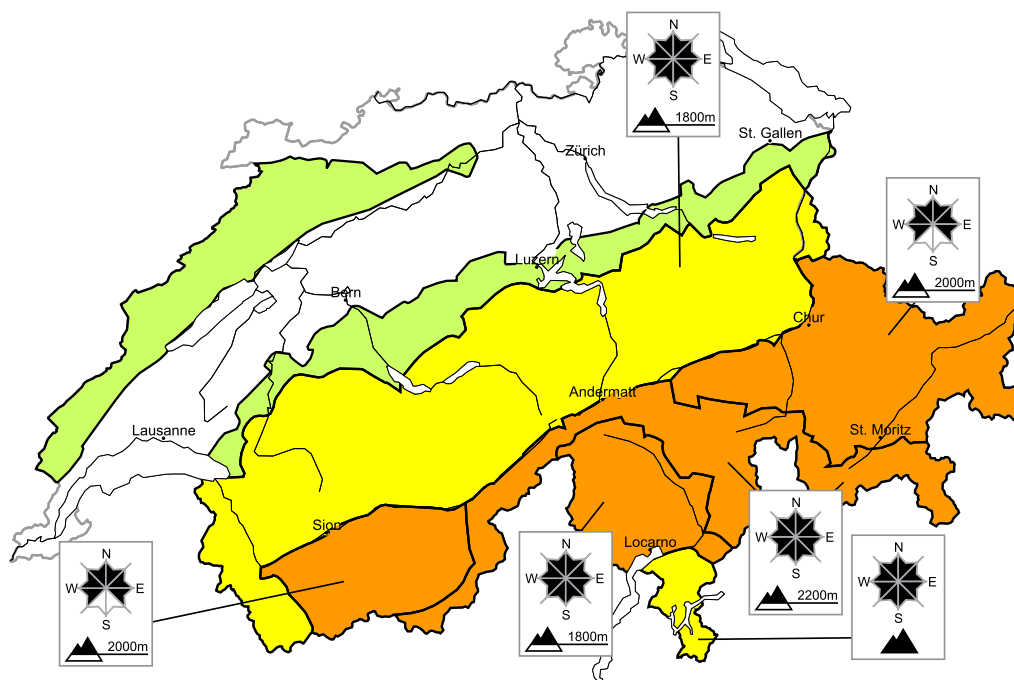


In Valais, in Ticino and in Grisons a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 18.12.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 18.12.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 18.12.2019, 08:00



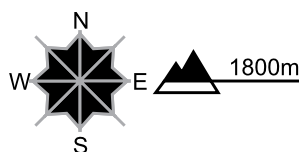
region A

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

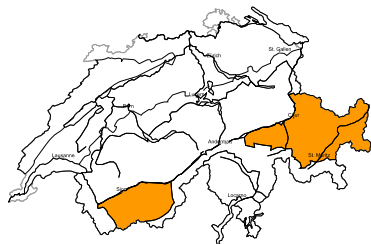
The fresh snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single persons can release avalanches, including large ones. Natural avalanches are possible. Off-piste activities call for caution and restraint.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

As a consequence of the rain small and medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

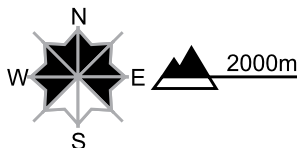
region B

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 by a single winter sport participant. In some places the avalanches can release the entire snowpack and reach a dangerous size. Whumpfung 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 caution and restraint.

Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2200 m small and medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible.

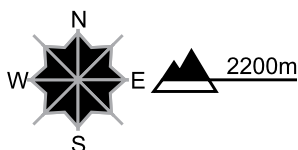
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

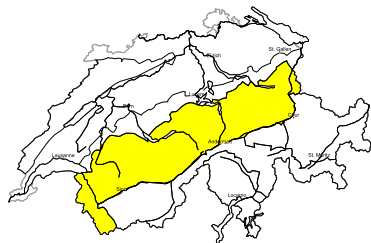
As a consequence of fresh snow and southerly wind, further wind slabs will form. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

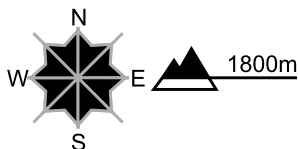
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong to storm force foehn wind, sometimes deep wind slabs formed. These are easy to recognise but in some cases prone to triggering. The older wind slabs can especially at their margins be released by large loads. These avalanche prone locations are rare but are difficult to recognise. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2200 m medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

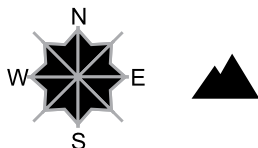
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wet and full-depth avalanches

Avalanche prone locations

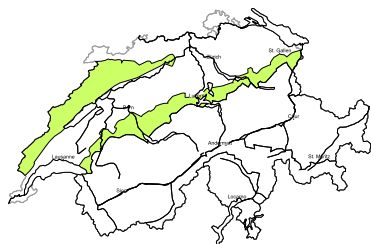


Danger description

As a consequence of the rain small and medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region F

Level 1, low



Gliding avalanches

Only a little snow is lying. Individual mostly small gliding avalanches and wet snow slides are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.12.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

The bonding of the snowpack is favourable in the south. Only very little snow is lying in the Prealps and the Jura. In the other regions, faceted and loosely bonded layers exist in the middle of the snowpack over a wide area. These are prone to triggering, in particular in places where they are covered by only a shallow layer of snow. In particular in the inneralpine regions of both Valais and Grisons, avalanches can also penetrate deeper weak layers of the old snowpack in some places. The old snowpack problem is most prevalent in these locations.

The surface of the snowpack and the snow's distribution have been influenced by the stormy conditions in the north in particular. The snow has been transported entirely from narrow and broad ridges. Mostly compact snow drift accumulations are to be found in gullies and bowls that are some distance from ridgelines. On the southern flank of the Alps, more snow is lying and it is more evenly distributed than in the north.

As a consequence of warm weather in the north and rain in the south, gliding avalanches are still to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 17.12.2019

On the southern flank of the Alps it was overcast, and snow fell above 1600 to 1800 m. In the north, the foehn wind gave rise to bright spells.

Fresh snow

The following amounts of snow fell above approximately 1800 m in the period from Monday morning until Tuesday afternoon:

- Southern Simplon region, Val Bedretto, Valle Maggia, Valle Leventina: 20 to 40 cm
- Northern Simplon region into Obergoms along the border with Italy, and rest of Ticino, Moesano, Val Bregaglia: 10 to 20 cm
- 15 to 30 mm rain fell in Sotto Ceneri

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between +6 °C in the north and -1 °C in the south

Wind

At elevated altitudes strong to storm force from the south

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 18.12.2019

The south will be very cloudy and snow will fall above 1800 to 2000 m. The snowfall will ease in the afternoon. The north will be mostly cloudy in the morning and quite sunny in the afternoon.

Fresh snow

From Tuesday afternoon until Wednesday afternoon the following amounts of snow are to be expected above approximately 2200 m:

- Upper Valais along the border with Italy, central part of the southern flank of the Alps, Val Bregaglia, Bernina region: 15 to 30 cm, but up to 40 cm in some localities
- Rest of the main Alpine ridge: 5 to 15 cm
- Further north: a few centimetres or remaining dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about +4 °C in the north and -1 °C in the south

Wind

- Easing significantly during the night
- During the day mostly moderate, at elevated altitudes sometimes strong, from the south to southwest

Outlook through Friday, 20.12.2019**Thursday**

The south will be mostly cloudy but only a little snow will fall. The avalanche danger will decrease. The north will be partly sunny and mostly dry. Here, the avalanche danger will change very little.

Friday

In the south there will be persistent and heavy snowfall above approximately 1800 m. The wind will be strong to storm force from the south. The avalanche danger will increase significantly on the main Alpine ridge and to the south. Above approximately 1800 m, natural avalanches are to be expected. In particular when originating in north facing multiple starting zones at high altitudes, these can become very large and endanger exposed transportation routes. As a consequence of heavy rain, wet snow and gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 1800 m. In the north there will once again be a strong to storm force southerly wind and a foehn wind in the Alpine valleys. Above 1800 to 2000 m some snow will encroach from the south. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.