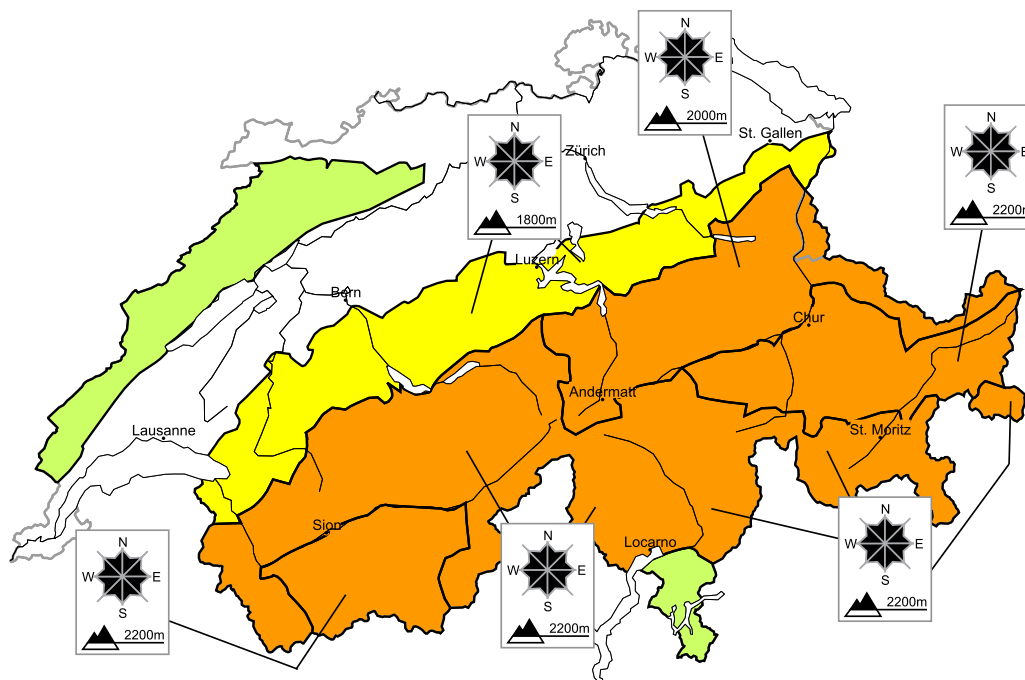


# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 26.12.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 26.12.2019, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 26.12.2019, 08:00



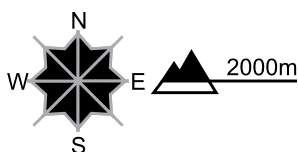
region A

Level 3, considerable



### New snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow of the last three days represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

### Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2200 m medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

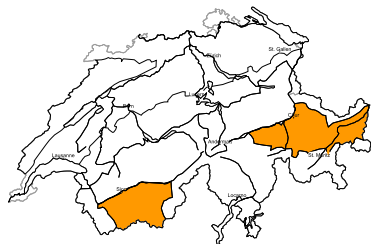
5 very high



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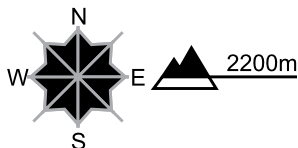
**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**New 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. This applies especially on very steep slopes. Additionally in some places avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. 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 and careful route selection.

**Gliding avalanches**

Below approximately 2200 m medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

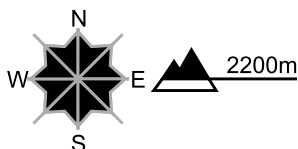
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The fresh snow of the last few days has bonded quite well with the old snowpack. Fresh wind slabs represent the main danger. They are to be bypassed especially in very steep terrain. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.

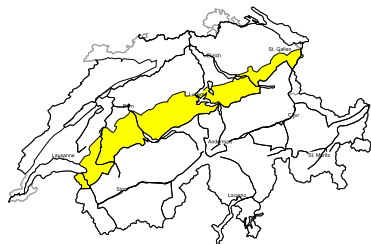
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

**Gliding avalanches**

Below approximately 2200 m medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

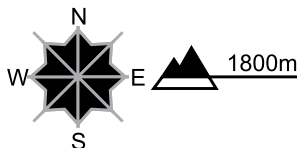
**region D**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.

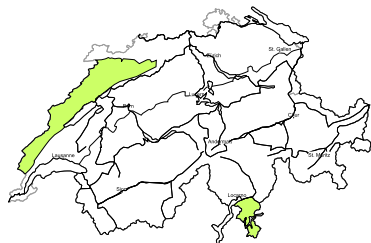
Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

**Wet avalanches**

Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible.

**region E**

**Level 1, low**



**No distinct avalanche problem**

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Even a snow slide can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 25.12.2019, 17:00

### Snowpack

The deep layers of new snow and fresh snowdrifts which have been generated in many places during the last few days are stabilising to an increasing degree. Near-to-surface layers such as the fresh and generally easily recognized snowdrift accumulations are still prone to triggering in some places.

More deeply embedded inside the snowpack there are expansively metamorphosed (faceted) and loosely-packed layers evident. This is particularly the case in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and southern Grisons. Here, more than anywhere else, avalanches can fracture down to these deep layers and subsequently sweep along the entire snowpack with them. On the southern flank of the Alps and in the furthestmost western regions of the Valais, snowpack structuring is favourable; fractures down to deeply embedded layers of the snowpack are unlikely.

In all regions of Switzerland below approximately 2200 m, gliding avalanches are possible. These releases can grow to medium size.

### Observed weather on Wednesday, 25.12.2019

On Tuesday night in the northern and eastern regions, skies were overcast and there was intermittent snowfall registered. In the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps, skies were partially clear. During the daytime on Wednesday, it was sunny in the Valais and in southern regions. In the northern regions, it became increasingly sunny from the west. In the eastern regions, skies remained heavily overcast until well into the afternoon. Above approximately 1200 m there was snowfall.

#### Fresh snow

Since Tuesday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow have been registered above 1500 m:

- eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, Lower Engadine: 15 to 30 cm; in the northern part of Lower Engadine as much as 40 cm;
- western and central sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais, Gotthard region, central Grisons, Upper Engadine: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; or else it remained dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in the northern and eastern regions and 0 °C in the Valais and southern regions.

#### Wind

Winds during the nocturnal hours were still blowing intermittently at storm strength, otherwise at moderate to strong velocity, from westerly to northwesterly directions.

### Weather forecast through Thursday, 26.12.2019

In the eastern regions, the last bit of snowfall is expected to fall on Wednesday evening. In the other regions of Switzerland, nighttime skies will be predominantly clear. During the daytime on Thursday, it will be sunny in the eastern regions; in the western regions, high-altitude cloud cover will move in. Nevertheless, it is expected to remain dry.

#### Fresh snow

On Wednesday evening above 1200 m:

- eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons, Lower Engadine: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland it will remain dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +3 °C in the western regions and -1 °C in the eastern and southern regions.

#### Wind

- Winds during the night will be blowing at moderate strength, at high altitudes and on the southern flank of the Alps at strong velocity in some places, from northwesterly directions.
- during the daytime, blowing predominantly at moderate strength from westerly to northwesterly directions.

**Outlook** through Saturday, 28.12.2019

**Friday**

On Friday in the northern regions, skies will be heavily overcast. Above 1500 m, snowfall is anticipated. On the southern flank of the Alps, it will be partly sunny and generally dry.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches could increase again somewhat on the northern flank of the Alps as a result of the fresh fallen snow. In the other regions of Switzerland, danger levels are not expected to change significantly. However, the danger of gliding avalanches requires increased caution in all regions of Switzerland.

**Saturday**

On Saturday in the northern and eastern regions, skies will still be overcast to begin with. In the other regions it will be sunny.

Avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.