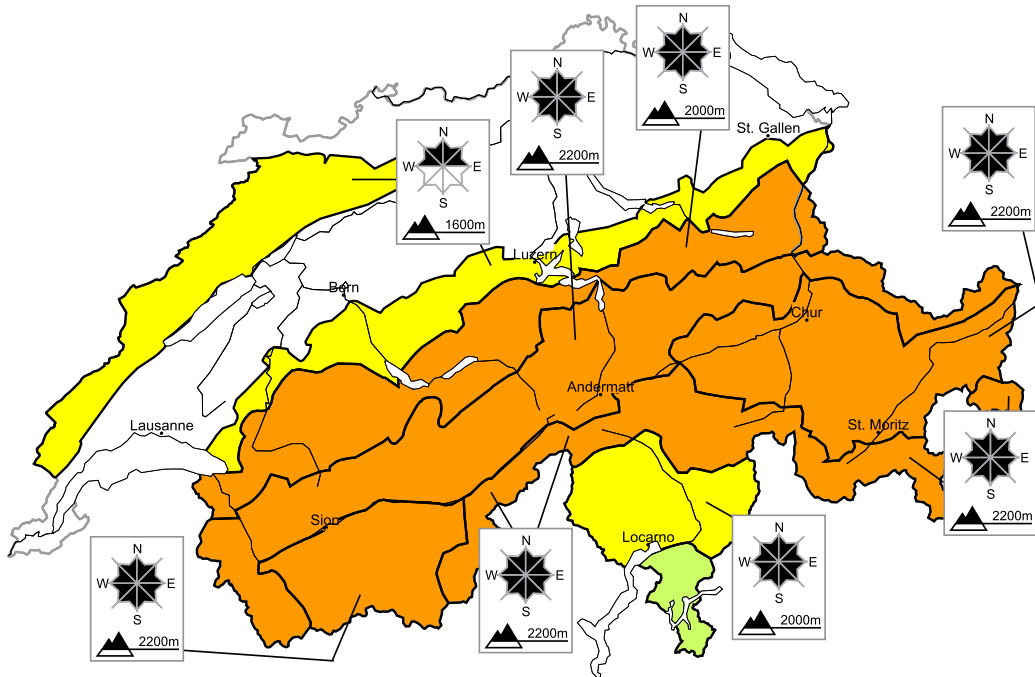


# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 28.12.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 28.12.2019, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 28.12.2019, 08:00



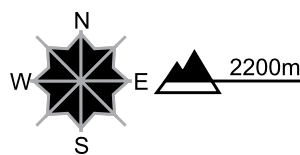
### region A

### Level 3, considerable



#### New snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



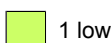
#### Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

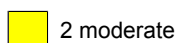
#### Gliding avalanches

An increasing number of medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are to be expected. This applies in particular below approximately 2400 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized moist avalanches are possible as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation. This applies especially on very steep south facing slopes.

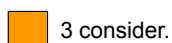
#### Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



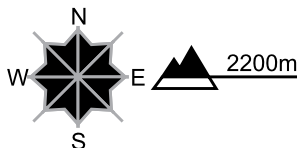
region B

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs of Friday are in some cases prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. Additionally in some places avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack above approximately 2400 m. These avalanche prone locations are rare and are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. 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 experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

An increasing number of medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are to be expected. This applies in particular below approximately 2400 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized moist avalanches are possible as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation. This applies especially on very steep south facing slopes.

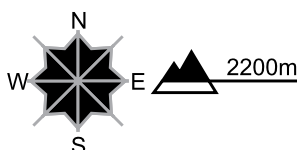
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



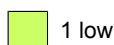
Danger description

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in near-ground layers and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. These avalanche prone locations are rare and are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. In addition mostly small wind slabs will form especially adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

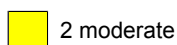
Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2400 m small and medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

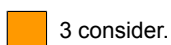
Danger levels



1 low



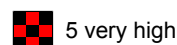
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high

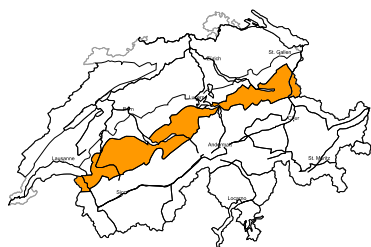


5 very high



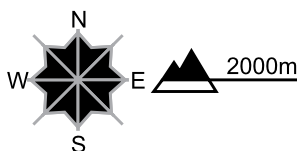
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**New snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The fresh snow and wind slabs of Friday are in some cases prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can in some places be released, even 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.

**Gliding avalanches**

An increasing number of small to medium-sized gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

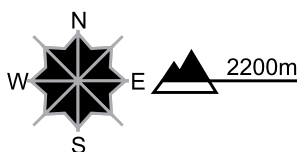
**region E**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

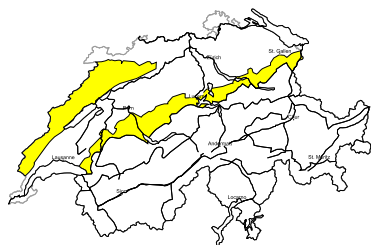
As a consequence of a moderate to strong northerly wind, wind slabs will form as the day progresses. These represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience 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.

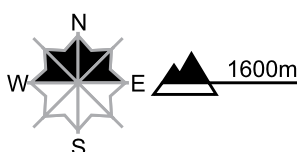
**region F**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small but to be assessed with care and prudence. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

**Wet avalanches as day progresses**

Mostly small moist snow slides are possible.

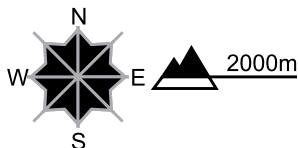
**region G**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The fresh and older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.

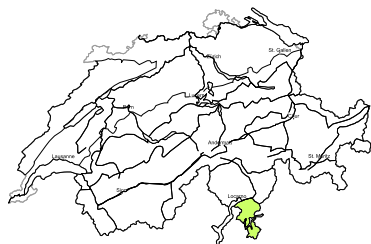
Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

**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 H**

**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 27.12.2019, 17:00

### Snowpack

Snowdrift accumulations were generated on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais on Friday. These drifted masses are still prone to triggering in some places.

More deeply embedded inside the snow cover there are layers of expansively metamorphosed (faceted), loosely-packed snow crystals evident. This is particularly the case in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons. In the southern part of the Valais and Grisons, several large-sized avalanche releases were reported to have triggered from these layers. These avalanche fractures occurred above 2600 m in all aspects. On the southern flank of the Alps and in the furthestmost western regions of the Lower Valais, the snowpack structuring is favourable. Fractures reaching deep into the snowpack are unlikely.

In all regions of Switzerland, increasingly frequent gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. These releases can grow to large size in isolated cases.

### Observed weather on Friday, 27.12.2019

In the northern regions, skies were heavily overcast. Above approximately 1200 m, there was snowfall over widespread areas, which was also intensive in the western and central sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Lower Valais during the morning hours. Only in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri did it remain dry and, to some extent, sunny.

#### Fresh snow

Above approximately 1500 m:

- western part of the Jura region, northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais, northern Upper Valais: 20 to 40 cm;
- eastern part of the Jura region, southern Upper Valais, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; or else, it remained dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C.

#### Wind

Winds were blowing at moderate strength, intermittently also at strong velocity at high altitudes, from westerly to northwesterly directions.

### Weather forecast through Saturday, 28.12.2019

During the night in northern regions, snowfall is expected to come to an end. During the daytime in northern regions, skies will still be overcast with high-fog like cloud to start with. In the mountains it will swiftly turn sunny. In the southern regions it will be predominantly sunny.

#### Fresh snow

In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, a few centimetres of fresh fallen snow is anticipated, in the other regions it will remain dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m in the western regions, +3 °C; in the eastern regions, -4 °C; in the southern regions, 0 °C.

#### Wind

- Prealps and Jura: moderate winds from northeasterly directions;
- Alps: in wind-exposed zones at high altitudes, as well as in high alpine regions in general, winds will be blowing at strong velocity, in the other regions generally at moderate strength, from northeasterly directions;
- southern flank of the Alps: blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northerly directions.

**Outlook** through Monday, 30.12.2019

It will be quite sunny in the mountains, in spite of high-altitude cloudbanks. Temperatures are expected to rise significantly. By Monday the zero-degree level will ascend to approximately 3000 m over widespread areas. The danger of dry-snow avalanches is expected to diminish incrementally. The old snow problem still requires caution in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons. The danger of gliding avalanches will remain upright. Gliding avalanches can grow to large size in isolated cases.