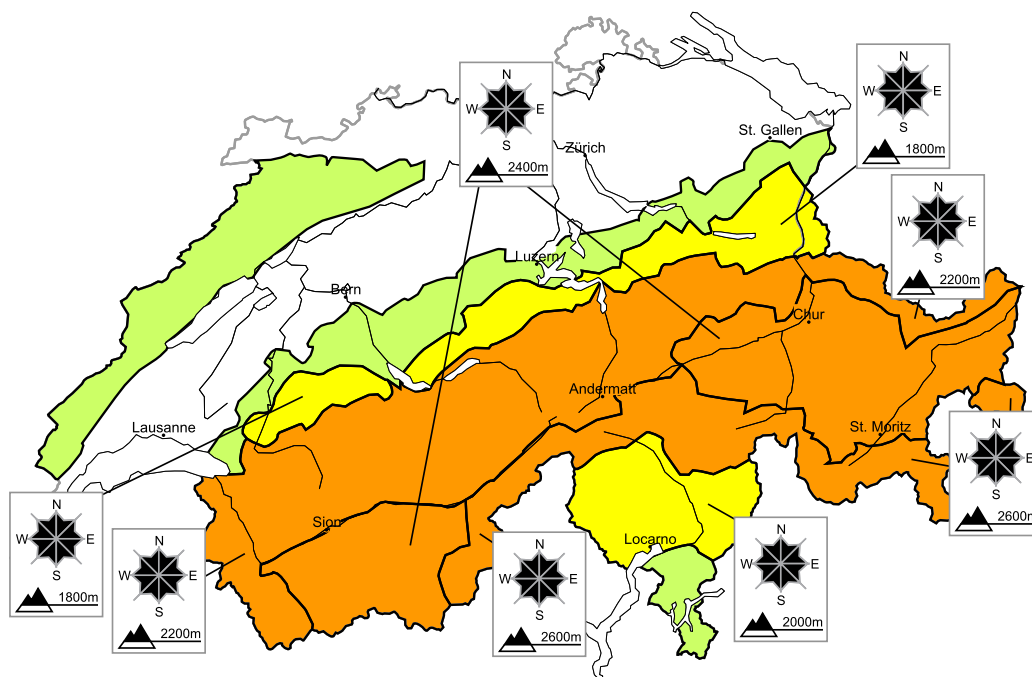


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 29.12.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 29.12.2019, 17:00

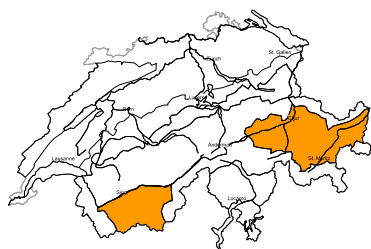
Avalanche danger

updated on 29.12.2019, 08:00



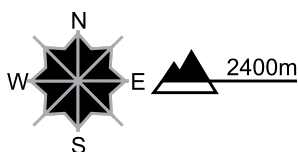
region A

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 avalanche prone wind slabs formed 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

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.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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region B

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong bise wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed. They can be released easily 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 and careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

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.

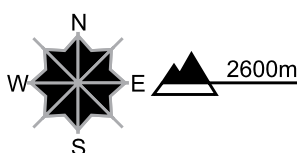
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

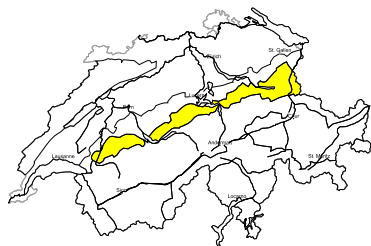
The fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. These represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche 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.

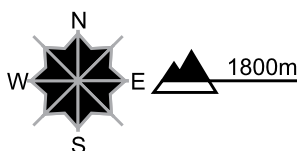
region D

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.

Gliding avalanches

Mostly small gliding avalanches and snow slides are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

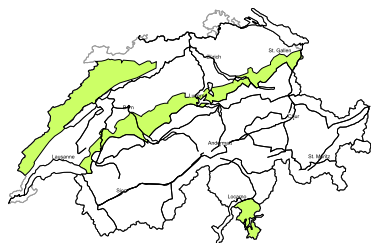
The wind slabs are in some cases still prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

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 F

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 28.12.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

The abundant amounts of fresh fallen snow and newly generated snowdrift accumulations of this week are settling and consolidating increasingly. Layers near to the upper surface and the snowdrift accumulations of Saturday are prone to triggering at high altitudes more than anywhere else.

More deeply embedded inside the snow cover there are layers of expansively metamorphosed (faceted) loosely-packed crystals evident, particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons. This week in the southern part of Valais, as well as Grisons, large-sized avalanche releases were observed having triggered from these layers. These 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 down to deep inside the snowpack are unlikely. On very steep, sunny slopes the snowpack surface was moistened and a breakable melt-freeze crust formed. This was particularly the case in the western regions.

In all regions of Switzerland, gliding avalanches continue to be anticipated below approximately 2400 m. These releases can grow to large size in isolated cases.

Observed weather on Saturday, 28.12.2019

During the night in northern regions, there was a small amount of snowfall registered above 1200 m. During the daytime it was sunny in the mountains, there were high-fog like cloudbanks in some parts of the Jura region and the Prealps.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday morning and Saturday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 1500 m:

- western part of the Jura region, northern flank of the Alps, Valais not including Saastal and southern Simplon region, northern Prättigau, Silvretta, Samnaun: 15 to 30 cm; on the northern Alpine Ridge as much as 50 cm from place to place;
- eastern part of Jura region, Prealps, Saastal, southern Simplon region, remaining parts of northern Grisons, remaining parts of northern Lower Engadine:: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; in the southern regions it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +3 °C in the western regions and -4 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

Winds were easterly to northeasterly,

- in the Jura region, blowing at moderate to strong velocity;
- in the western and central sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais, central and eastern parts of the Main Alpine Ridge, Upper Engadin: blowing at moderate to strong velocity at high altitudes;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, blowing at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 29.12.2019

It will be sunny in the mountains, accompanied intermittently by high-altitude cloudbanks.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +4 °C in the western regions and 0 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

Winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength, on the Main Alpine Ridge at strong velocity in some places, from northeasterly directions.

Outlook through Tuesday, 31.12.2019

It will be sunny in the mountains, accompanied intermittently by high-altitude cloudbanks and very mild temperatures for this juncture of the season. The danger of dry-snow avalanches is expected to incrementally decrease. The old-snow problem requires ongoing caution in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons. The danger of gliding avalanches remains upright. These releases can grow to large size in isolated cases, particularly in the western regions.