Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 2 January 2020

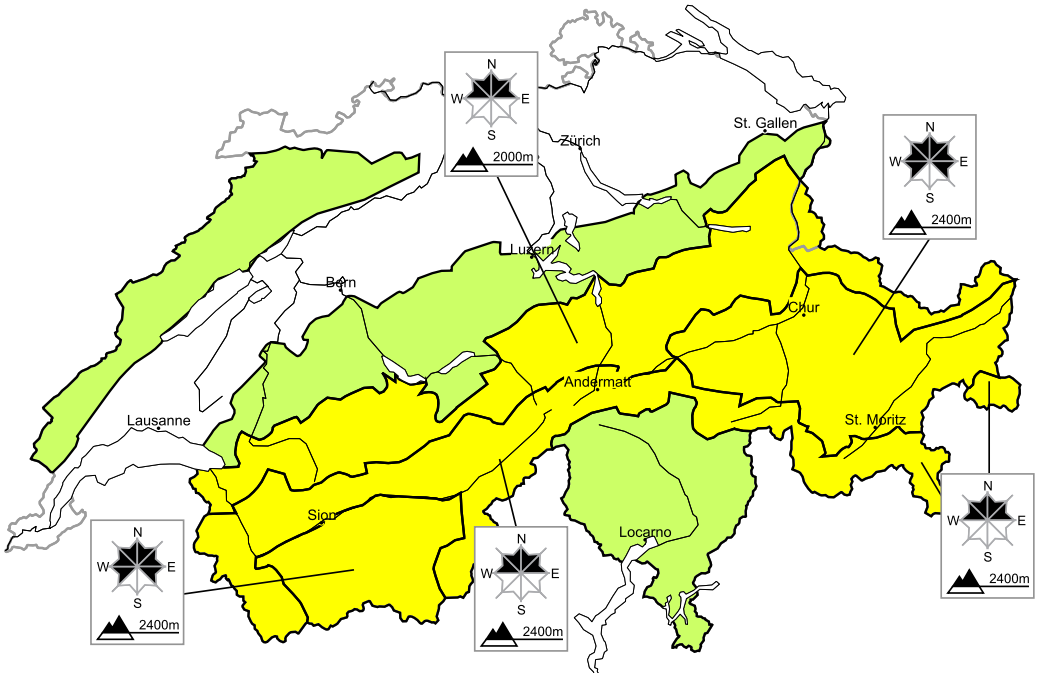
2.1.2020, 07:52

Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Gliding avalanches require caution

Edition: 2.1.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 2.1.2020, 17:00

Dry avalanches

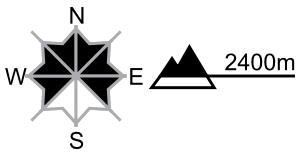
updated on 2.1.2020, 08:00



Dry, region A | **Level 2, moderate**

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In isolated cases avalanches can be released in deep layers and reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are rare and are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Caution is to be exercised in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack as well as in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Additional danger: Gliding avalanches (see 2nd map)

Danger levels 1 low | 2 moderate | 3 consider. | 4 high | 5 very high

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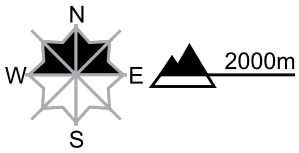
Dry, region B — Level 2, moderate

No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations

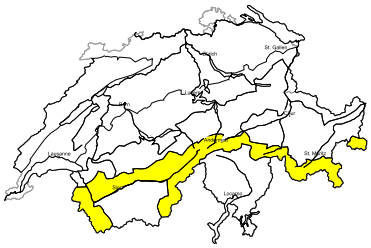


Danger description

Dry avalanches can in some places be released in near-surface layers. Older wind slabs represent the main danger. They can especially at their margins be released. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Careful route selection is recommended.

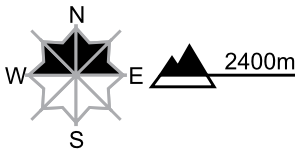
Additional danger: Gliding avalanches (see 2nd map)

Dry, region C — Level 2, moderate



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations

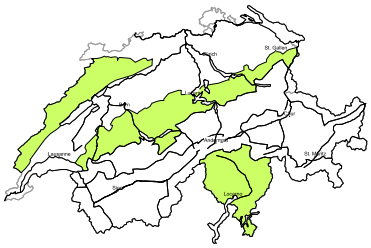


Danger description

Dry avalanches can in some places be released in near-surface layers. Older wind slabs represent the main danger. They can especially at their margins be released. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Careful route selection is recommended.

Additional danger: Gliding avalanches (see 2nd map)

Dry, region D — Level 1, low



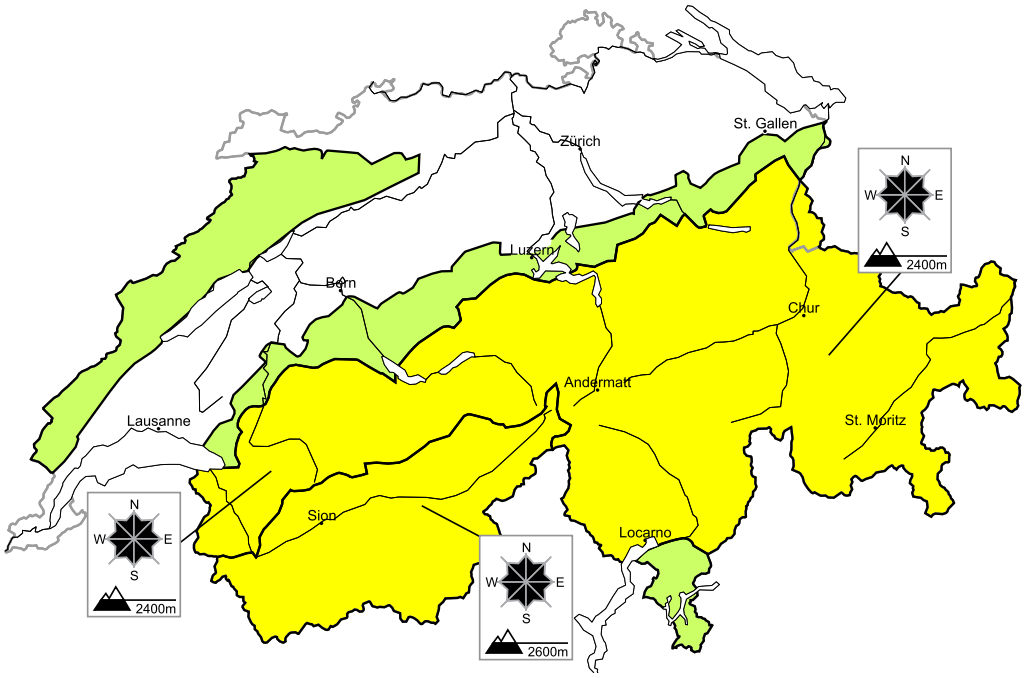
No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Even a small avalanche 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.

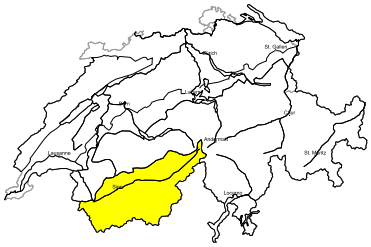
Additional danger: Gliding avalanches (see 2nd map)

Gliding avalanches

updated on 2.1.2020, 08:00

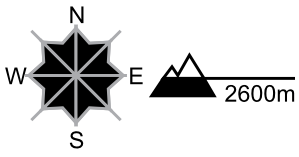


Gliding, region A — Level 2, moderate



Gliding avalanches

Avalanche prone locations

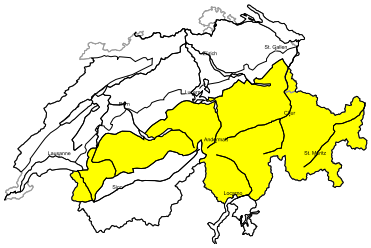


Danger description

Gliding avalanches can be released at any time of day or night. They can in isolated cases reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

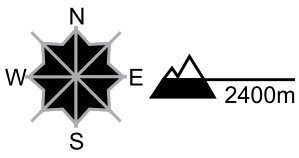
Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Gliding, region B — Level 2, moderate



Gliding avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Gliding avalanches are possible at any time, in particular medium-sized ones. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

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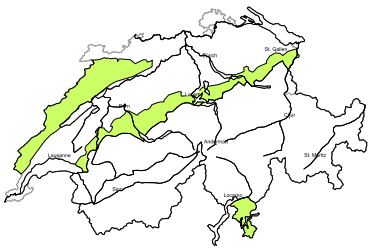
Gliding, region C

Level 1, low



Gliding avalanches

Individual gliding avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Snowpack and weather

updated on 1.1.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

Particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, weak layers more deeply embedded inside the snowpack are still prone to triggering from place to place. In those regions, avalanches have triggered from these layers in isolated cases, including large-sized releases. These avalanches occurred above 2600 m in all aspects. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, avalanches fracturing down to deep in the snowpack are improbable. Particularly on the southern flank of the Alps and in the furthermost western regions of the Lower Valais, the snowpack structuring is favourable.
In all regions of Switzerland, glide-snow avalanches can ongoingly be expected. These avalanches can release at any time of day or night and can grow to large size, particularly in the western regions.
The snowpack surfaces in ridgeline and pass areas and in general on the northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge, are starkly influenced by wind impact and highly irregular. In the other regions of Switzerland the wind-protected surfaces are frequently full of powder snow. On steep, sunny slopes there is a breakable melt-freeze crust evident over widespread areas.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 01.01.2020

It was predominantly sunny and extremely mild in the mountains.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +5 °C in the Ticino and +7 °C in the other regions of Switzerland.

Wind

Winds were blowing predominantly at light strength.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 02.01.2020

It will be predominantly sunny in the mountains. Towards evening, cirrustratus clouds will move in from the west.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +1 °C.

Wind

Winds will be southwesterly,

- blowing at light to moderate strength at 2000 m, increasing in intensity during the afternoon in the western regions in particular;
- at 3000 m, blowing at moderate to strong velocity.

Outlook through Saturday, 04.01.2020

On Friday, skies will be partially overcast. In the northern regions, cloud cover will become more dense during the afternoon. In the mountains a strong-velocity westerly wind will be blowing. On Saturday in the northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1200 m. In the western regions it will become increasingly sunny, in the Ticino it will be predominantly sunny.
The danger of dry-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, isolated avalanche releases continue to be possible: to fracture in the more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack.
The danger of gliding snow avalanches remains upright. These releases can grow to large size in isolated cases, in the western regions more than anywhere else.