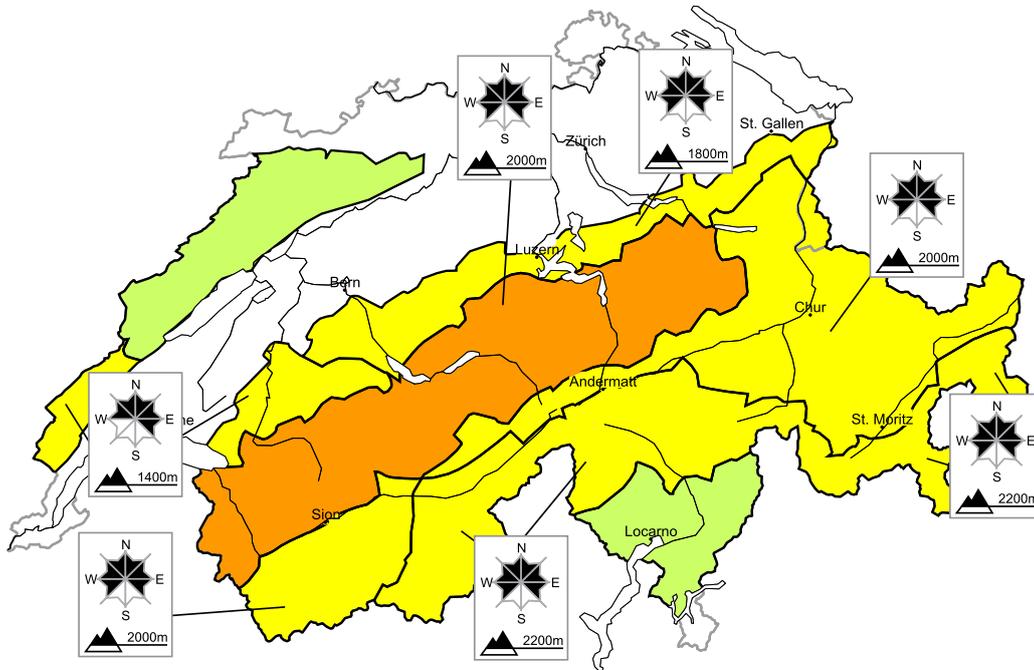


As a consequence of fresh snow and wind a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 18.1.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 18.1.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 18.1.2020, 08:00



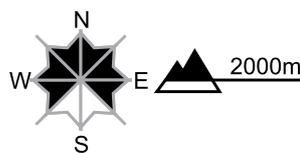
region A

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow is bonding poorly with the old snowpack in particular on wind-protected shady slopes. In addition avalanche prone wind slabs formed. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

Between approximately 2000 and 2600 m individual gliding avalanches are possible, in particular medium-sized ones. They can be released at any time of day or night. 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



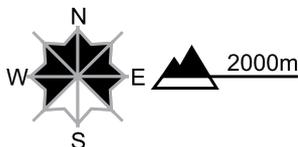
region B

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs are bonding poorly with the old snowpack in particular on wind-protected shady slopes. The fresh wind slabs are mostly rather small but can be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Gliding avalanches

Between approximately 2000 and 2600 m individual gliding avalanches are possible, in particular medium-sized ones. They can be released at any time of day or night. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

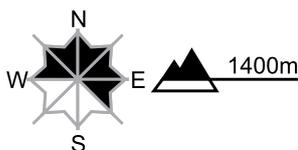
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and wind, wind slabs formed. These are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can reach medium size in isolated cases. The fresh wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

Gliding avalanches

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

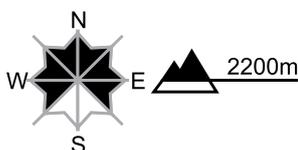
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong northerly wind, rather small wind slabs will form in some localities. These are prone to triggering in particular on steep shady slopes. Mostly avalanches are small. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Gliding avalanches

Between approximately 2000 and 2600 m individual gliding avalanches are possible, in particular medium-sized ones. They can be released at any time of day or night. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

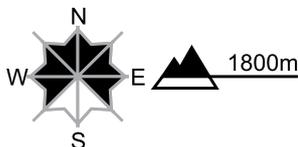
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a sometimes strong northwesterly wind, small wind slabs formed in some localities. These are to be avoided in very steep terrain. Mostly avalanches are small. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Gliding avalanches

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

region F

Level 1, low



Wind slabs

Only a little snow is lying. Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. In some localities small wind slabs formed. These are to be avoided in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.1.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

On shady slopes the fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrifts are bonding poorly with the old snowpack surface. The uppermost surface layers of the snowpack on wind-protected slopes there are expansively metamorphosed (faceted) and loosely-packed. On sunny slopes there was still a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads prior to the snowfall. This is a more favourable snow base for the fresh snow.

In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, layers of soft, expansively metamorphosed (faceted) crystals are to be found deeply embedded inside the snowpack. Since the start of the new year, however, no avalanches have been registered as fracturing in these layers.

In all regions of Switzerland, gliding avalanches continue to be possible in isolated cases. These avalanches can release at any time of day or night.

Prior to the precipitation, the snow levels on north-facing slopes lay at 1000 to 1600 m; on south-facing slopes 200 to 400 m higher up. The snow depths in nearly all regions of Switzerland are below average for this juncture of the season. Snow depths are average only in the northern Valais, from the Simplon into the Bedretto valley, and from Val Bregaglia as far as the Bernina Pass.

Observed weather on Friday, 17.01.2020

Following a night of clear skies on Thursday, cloud cover moved in from the west on Friday morning. During the afternoon in the furthest western regions, snowfall set in. In the eastern and the southern regions, it remained sunny until the afternoon. The snowfall level lay at 1300 m.

Fresh snow

In the western Jura region and in the Chablais, only a few centimetres.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the northern regions and -2 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds in the western regions were blowing at moderate strength, in the heights of the Jura region at strong velocity, from southwesterly directions;
- in the other regions of Switzerland blowing at light to moderate strength from southerly directions.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 18.01.2020

On Friday night, snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas which will extend down to low lying zones. During the morning hours on Saturday, the precipitation will come to an end starting in the west, and it will turn increasingly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, above 1000 m:

- furthest western part of Lower Valais, western and central sectors of the northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 25 cm;
- Jura region, remaining parts of Lower Valais, eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, Grisons not including Moesano: 10 to 15 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres.

Temperature

- In the northern regions, temperatures will drop significantly, at midday at 2000 m to -8 °C;
- in the southern regions, to -4 °C.

Wind

- In the northern regions, winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from westerly to northwesterly directions, slackening off during the daytime;
- in the southern regions, strong northerly winds will be blowing.

Outlook through Monday, 20.01.2020

Sunday

On Sunday it will be partly sunny in spite of cloudbanks. In the eastern regions there may be a bit of snowfall from region to region. As a result of northeasterly winds, it is expected to remain cold.
Avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Monday

On Monday it will be predominantly sunny.
Avalanche danger levels will decrease only incrementally.