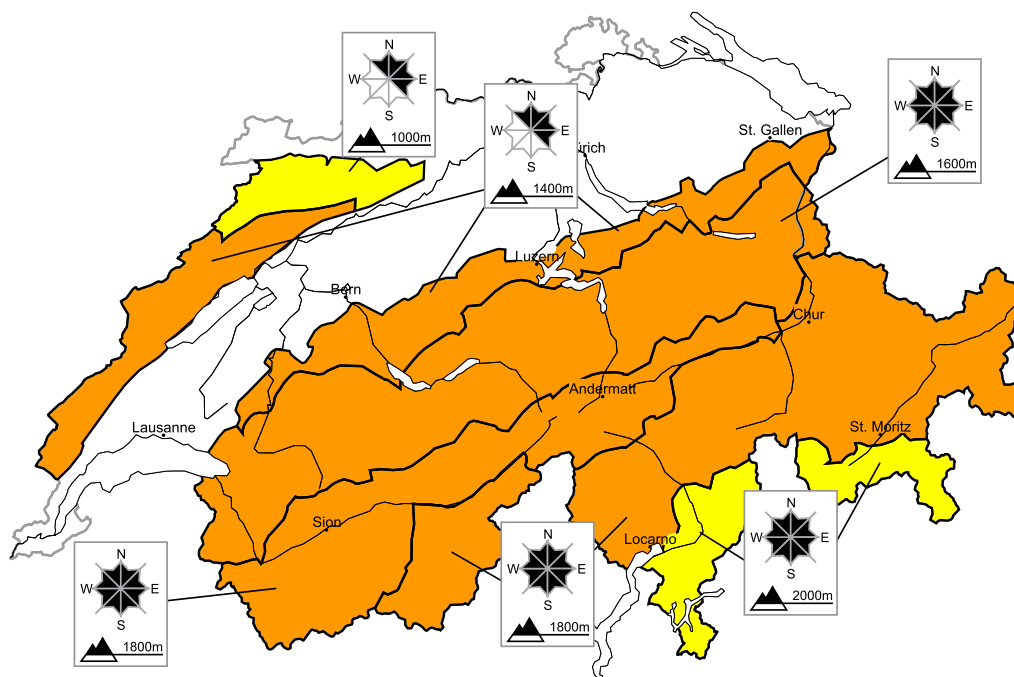


# Fresh snow and wind slabs: Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 30.1.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 30.1.2020, 17:00

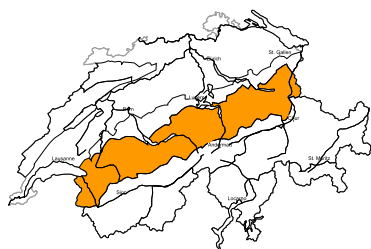
## Avalanche danger

updated on 30.1.2020, 08:00



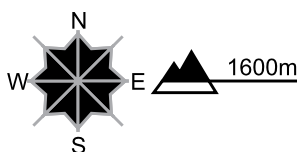
**region A**

**Level 3, considerable**



### New snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow of the last two days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on north and east facing slopes.

Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack are a clear indication of a weakly bonded snowpack. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

**Danger levels**

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

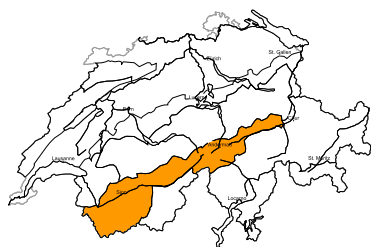
5 very high



WSL Institute for Snow and  
 Avalanche Research SLF  
 www.slf.ch

**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**New snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



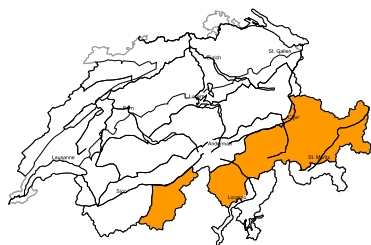
**Danger description**

Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow of the last two days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on north and east facing slopes.

Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack are a clear indication of a weakly bonded snowpack. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

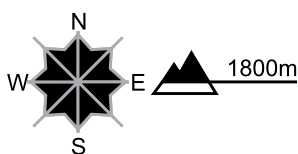
**region C**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



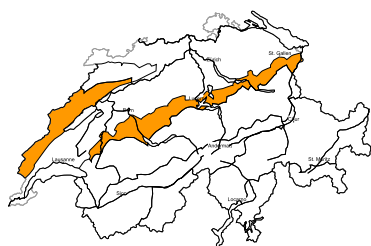
**Danger description**

The fresh snow and wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. The wind slabs of the last two days can be released very easily especially on wind-protected shady slopes. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack are a clear indication of a weakly bonded snowpack. Avalanches can reach dangerously large size.

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

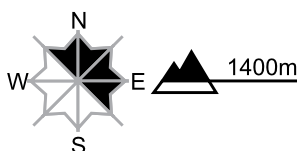
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



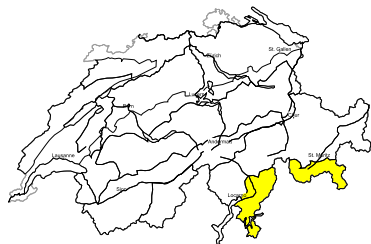
**Danger description**

The sometimes storm force wind has transported the fresh snow significantly. The wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on wind-protected shady slopes. Avalanches can in some places be released easily.

Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

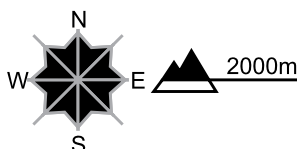
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**

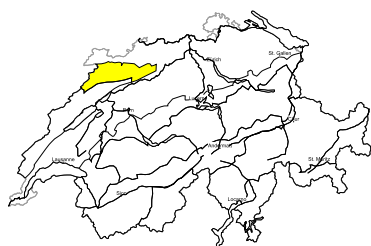


**Danger description**

The northwesterly wind has transported the fresh snow. The wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on wind-protected shady slopes. They can be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. The wind slabs are to be avoided in steep terrain.

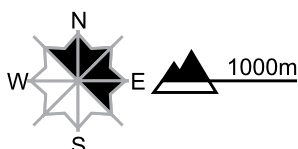
**region F**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The westerly wind has transported the fresh snow. The wind slabs are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 29.1.2020, 17:00

### Snowpack

The large amounts of fresh fallen snow which have fallen in some places during the last two days have been massively transported by winds in the northern regions and the Valais more than anywhere else.

Particularly in wind-protected shady terrain, the fresh snow and fresh snowdrifts lie deposited on top of softened, expansively metamorphosed (faceted) layers of old snow, from place to place atop surface hoar. This unfavourable snowpack structuring is generating a likelihood of avalanches triggering, and is expected to persist for a longer period. On the other hand, on wind-protected slopes and on steep sunny slopes the snowpack surface was frequently rough-hewn and hardened. There, the bonding to the layers of fresh snow and fresh drifts is more favourable.

### Observed weather on Wednesday, 29.01.2020

Skies were heavily overcast and it was windy. There was heavy snowfall down to low lying areas over widespread regions. Only in the furthestmost southern regions did it remain dry and predominantly sunny.

#### Fresh snow

Between Monday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon above approximately 1800 m, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered (due to storm-strength winds in some regions, the amounts of snowfall vary widely from place to place):

- northern and furthestmost western parts of Lower Valais, Leuk, Lötschental, Aletsch region and the Glarner Alps: 70 to 100 cm;
- remaining regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, remaining parts of Lower Valais, Gotthard region, upper valleys of Maggia and western part of the Jura region: 40 to 70 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 20 to 40 cm over widespread areas; in the Upper Engadine and the bordering valleys to the south, as well as in Sotto Ceneri, less.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -5 °C in the southwestern regions and - 7 °C in the northeastern regions.

#### Wind

- During the night, winds were blowing at strong velocity to storm strength from westerly directions, during the daytime slackening off somewhat;
- in the southern regions, winds were light-to-moderate from the northwest.

### Weather forecast through Thursday, 30.01.2020

In the early part of the night in eastern regions, a small amount of snowfall is expected, subsequently skies will clear up in all regions of Switzerland. In the course of the day on Thursday, clouds will move in from the west. In the furthestmost western regions a small amount of snowfall is expected in the afternoon, with a rapidly ascending snowfall level.

#### Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected:

- central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, and northern Grisons: during Wednesday night, 5 to 15 cm of fresh snow expected above approximately 1000 m;
- Jura region, Vaud Alps and Lower Valais: on Thursday afternoon only a few centimetres of fresh snow, as rainfall below 2000 m.

#### Temperature

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

#### Wind

- Winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from westerly directions;
- in the southern regions, strong-velocity winds from the northwest.

**Outlook** through Saturday, 01.02.2020

**Friday**

On Thursday night a small amount of precipitation is anticipated. The snowfall level will ascend to approximately 2200 m. In the furthestmost southern regions it is expected to remain dry. During the course of the day it will turn increasingly sunny from the west. In high alpine regions, fine weather is expected.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly. As a result of rainfall and rising temperatures, moist-snow avalanches and, particularly in the western and northern regions, gliding avalanches can be expected.

**Saturday**

In early morning, cloud cover will swiftly move in from the west, followed by a small amount of precipitation. The snowfall level will continue to lie at about 2000 m. In the furthestmost southern regions it is expected to remain dry. Avalanche danger levels will decrease, however only slowly in wind-protected shady terrain and in general in the inneralpine regions.