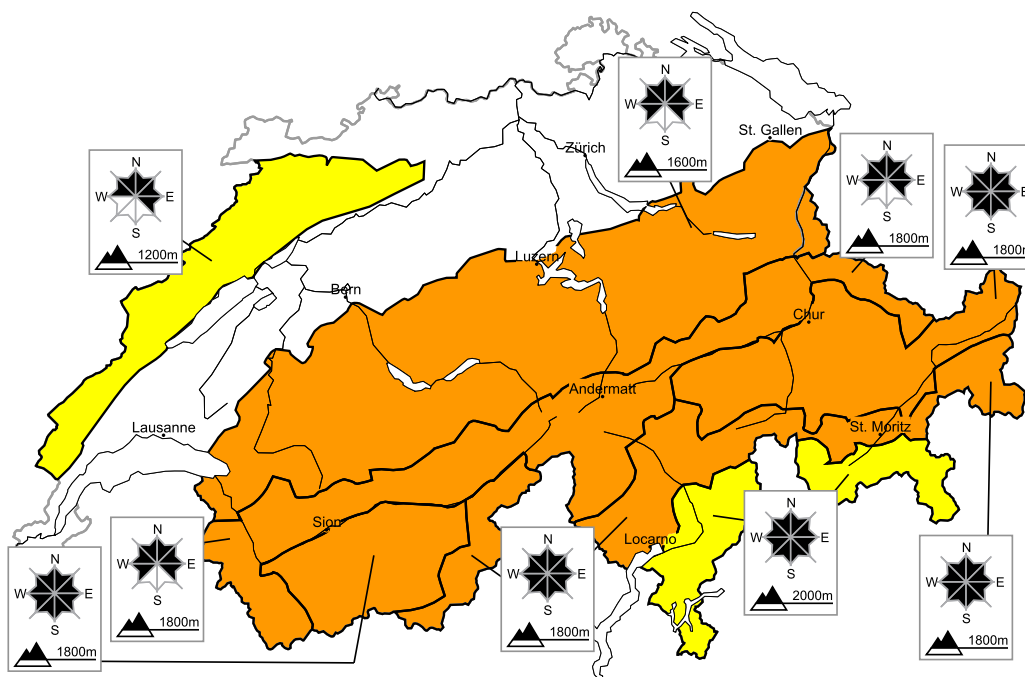


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 31.1.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 31.1.2020, 17:00

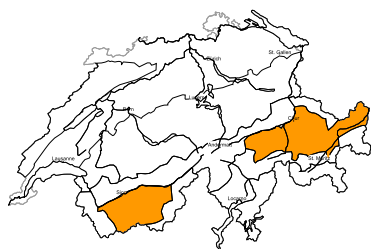
Avalanche danger

updated on 31.1.2020, 08:00



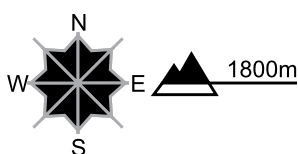
region A

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack are a clear indication of a weakly bonded snowpack. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

The avalanche situation is a little more favourable in highly frequented off-piste terrain.

Gliding avalanches

On steep grassy slopes 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

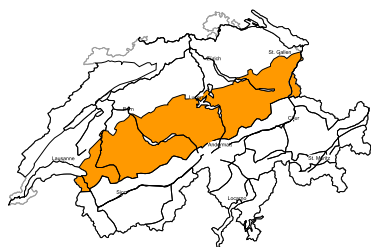
5 very high



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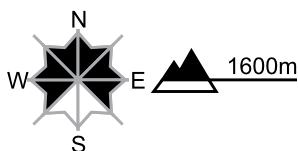
region B

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

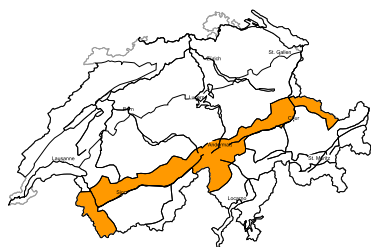
Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on wind-protected shady slopes. Avalanches can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. The avalanche situation is more favourable in highly frequented off-piste terrain.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.
On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides are possible as a consequence of warming during the day.

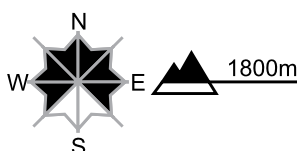
region C

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

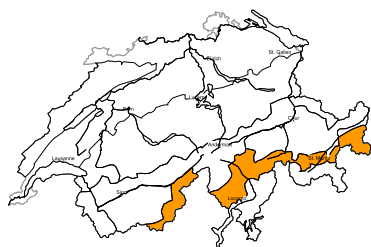
Much of the fresh and wind-drifted snow of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on wind-protected shady slopes. Avalanches can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. The avalanche situation is more favourable in highly frequented off-piste terrain.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.
On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides are possible as a consequence of warming during the day.

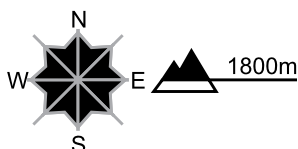
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

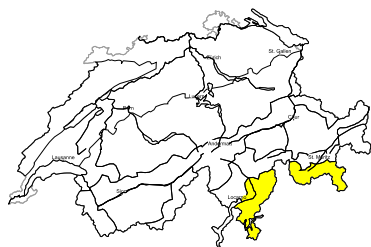
As a consequence of a strong wind, wind slabs formed in the last few days in all aspects. These are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on wind-protected shady slopes. Avalanches can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant. They can reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides are to be expected, but they will be mostly small.

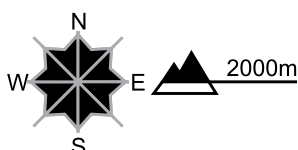
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

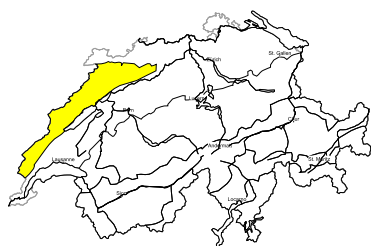


Danger description

As a consequence of northwesterly wind, wind slabs formed in the last few days. These are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on wind-protected shady slopes. Avalanches can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

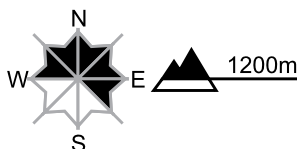
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wet and full-depth avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Small to medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected on very steep grassy slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 30.1.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

The heavy amounts of fresh fallen snow and newly generated snowdrifts from Tuesday and Wednesday lie deposited on top of soft, expansively metamorphosed (faceted) layers of old snow, particularly on wind-protected shady slopes and in general in the inneralpine regions; from place to place, they are deposited on top of surface hoar. This unfavourable snowpack structuring increases the likelihood of avalanches triggering, moreover, this snowpack layering is expected to persist. On wind-exposed slopes and on steep sunny slopes, the snow was frequently deposited atop a rough-hewn or hardened old snowpack surface. There, the snowpack structuring is more favourable.

Observed weather on Thursday, 30.01.2020

During the night the snowfall came to an end, including in the northeastern regions, and skies cleared up. During the daytime it was predominantly sunny to begin with, in spite of cirrus clouds. In the western regions, cloud cover moved in during the afternoon.

Fresh snow

Over the course of two days which lasted until well into Wednesday night, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 1800 m (with highly varying amounts locally, due to storm-strength winds in some places):

- northern and furthestmost western parts of Lower Valais, Leuk, Lötschental as well as Glarner Alps: 70 to 100 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, Gotthard region, upper valleys of Maggia, remaining parts of Valais not including Upper Valais sector of the Main Alpine Ridge, northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine, as well as the 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 valleys bordering to the south, as well as in Sotto Ceneri, less.

Temperature

At midday 2000 m, between +2 °C in the western regions and 0 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

- Winds were westerly, blowing at moderate strength, from place to place at strong velocity;
- in the southern regions, moderate-strength northerly winds were blowing during the night.

Weather forecast through Friday, 31.01.2020

During the nighttime hours, a small amount of precipitation is anticipated in the northern regions more than anywhere else. The snowfall level is expected to ascend rapidly to approximately 2200 m. In the morning hours, it will swiftly become sunny and mild in the mountains. The zero-degree level will ascend to approximately 3000 m by afternoon.

Fresh snow

During Thursday night, the following amounts are expected:

- regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, Jura region: 5 to 15 cm fresh snow above 2200 m, rain below that altitude;
- southern Valais, northern Grisons, less; further to the south it is expected to remain dry.

Temperature

At midday 2000 m, between +2 °C in the northern regions and +5 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Moderate to strong-velocity westerly winds will be blowing during the night, slackening off during the daytime.

Outlook through Sunday, 02.02.2020

Saturday

As a result of intensifying westerly winds, cloud cover will quickly move in during the course of the day. In the afternoon, the first snowfall is anticipated, below approximately 2000 m a bit of rainfall. In Grisons and in the southern regions it is expected to remain dry.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches will decrease, however only very slowly on wind-protected shady slopes and generally in the inneralpine regions. Gliding avalanches are expected in the northern and western regions more than anywhere else.

Sunday

As a result of strong to storm-strength westerly winds, skies will be heavily overcast and some snowfall is anticipated above approximately 2000 m. Even heavy snowfall is possible in the northern and western regions, but the amounts anticipated are still uncertain. In the furthestmost southern regions it will be rather sunny as a result of northerly winds.

The danger of both dry-snow avalanches in the heights and wet-snow avalanches at intermediate altitudes is expected to increase over widespread areas, even significantly so in the northern and the western regions depending on the amounts of precipitation.