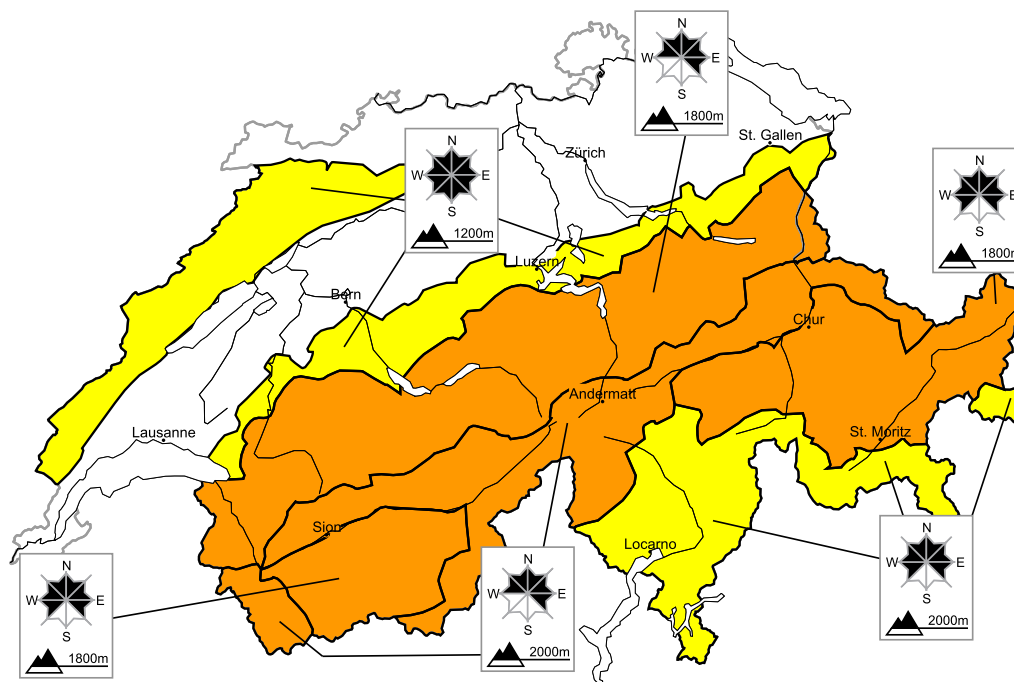


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 1.2.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 1.2.2020, 17:00

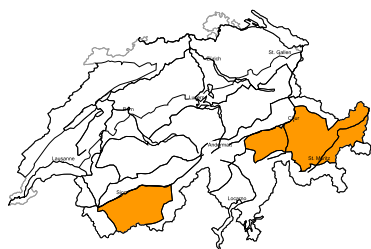
Avalanche danger

updated on 1.2.2020, 08:00



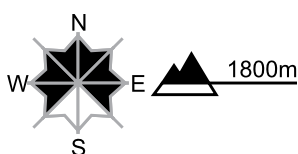
region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs of Wednesday 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. Whumping 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 and restraint. The avalanche situation is a little more favourable in highly frequented off-piste terrain.

As a consequence of a gathering strong westerly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form as the day progresses at elevated altitudes.

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

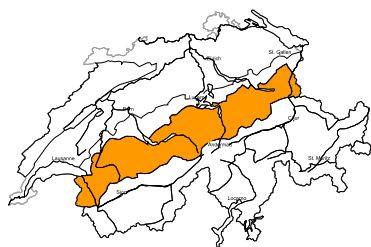
5 very high



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

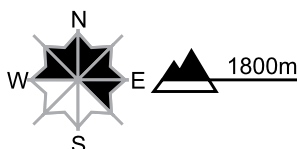
region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs of Wednesday 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. Isolated whumpfung sounds 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.

As a consequence of a gathering strong westerly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form as the day progresses at elevated altitudes.

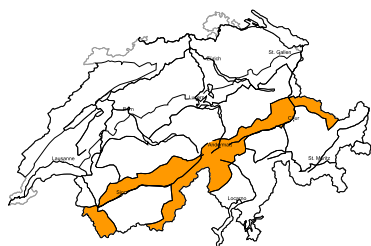
Wet and full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

In addition as the day progresses moist snow slides are possible.

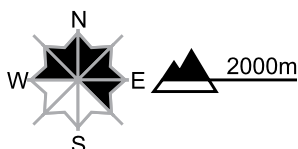
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs of Wednesday 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. Isolated whumpfung sounds 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.

As a consequence of a gathering strong westerly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form as the day progresses at elevated altitudes.

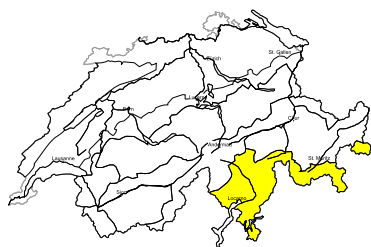
Wet and full-depth avalanches

On steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

In addition as the day progresses moist snow slides are possible.

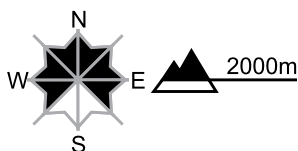
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs 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 isolated cases be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases.

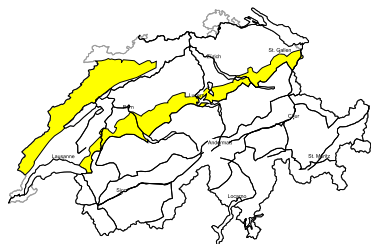
The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day moist snow slides are possible, especially on very steep sunny slopes.

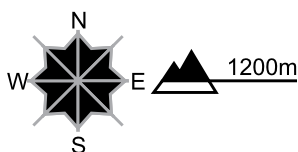
region E

Level 2, moderate



Gliding avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Small to medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible on very steep grassy slopes. They can be released at any time of day or night. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 31.1.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of warmth and rain in the northern regions, the snowpack below approximately 2000 m has settled heavily. Above that altitude it remains prone to triggering from place to place. Fresh fallen snow and fresh snowdrifts from this week lie deposited on top of soft, expansively metamorphosed (faceted) old snowpack layers and from place to place atop surface hoar, particularly on wind-protected shady slopes and in general in the inneralpine regions. This unfavourable snowpack structuring gives rise to heightened likelihood of avalanches triggering. In wind-exposed terrain and on steep sunny slopes, the fresh snow and drifts from this week are frequently deposited on top of a rough-hewn or hardened old snowpack surface. There, the snowpack layering is more favourable.

As a result of persistent warmth and renewed rainfall, wet-snow and gliding avalanches can be expected.

Observed weather on Friday, 31.01.2020

During the night in the northern regions there was precipitation. The snowfall level swiftly ascended to approximately 2200 m. In the morning in the Valais and the Ticino, later also in the remaining regions of Switzerland, it became increasingly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday morning above 2200 m:

- regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, Goms, Samnaun: 5 to 10 cm, up to 15 cm from place to place;
- from the remaining parts of the Valais over the Gotthard region as far as northern Grisons: only a few centimetres;
- further to the south, it remained dry.

In the Jura region there was 10 to 15 mm of rain registered.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +3 °C in the northern regions and +5 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds were blowing from westerly directions,

- during the night on the northern Alpine Ridge at strong velocity, elsewhere at moderate strength;
- during the daytime slackening off and blowing generally at light-to-moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 01.02.2020

Following a night of clear skies it will be persistently sunny in the eastern regions. In the other regions of Switzerland, cloud cover will move in from the west. Above approximately 2000 m a small amount of snowfall is expected. In Grisons and in Ticino it will remain dry until the latter part of the afternoon.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon:

- furthestmost western part of Lower Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps: 5 to 15 cm;
- remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Valais: only a few centimetres;
- Grisons and Ticino: it will remain dry.

In the Jura region, approximately 10 mm of rain.

Temperature

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

Wind

- Nocturnal winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength from the southwest;
- during the daytime in the northern regions and in general at high altitude, winds will become increasingly strong-to-stormy, from westerly directions.

Outlook through Monday, 03.02.2020

With storm-strength westerly winds on Sunday, heavy precipitation is anticipated in the western and northern regions. The snowfall level will ascend in the western regions to nearly 2400 m on Sunday, in the eastern regions to nearly 2200 m. On Monday morning the precipitation will come to an end in the northern regions. The snowfall level at the termination of precipitation will be at 2000 m. As a result of persistent storm-strength westerly winds on Monday, increasingly frequent bright intervals are expected. In the southern regions it will be rather sunny on both days.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches at high altitudes as well as wet-snow avalanches at intermediate altitudes is expected to increase significantly on Sunday in the western and the northern regions more than anywhere else, possibly reaching danger level 4 (high) during Sunday afternoon. Naturally triggered and large-sized avalanches can be expected. Starting on Monday morning, with the end of the precipitation, the danger of wet-snow avalanches will swiftly diminish. Gliding avalanches continue to be expected. At high altitudes the avalanche situation will remain critical. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will decrease only incrementally.

In the southern regions, avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.