Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 9 February 2020

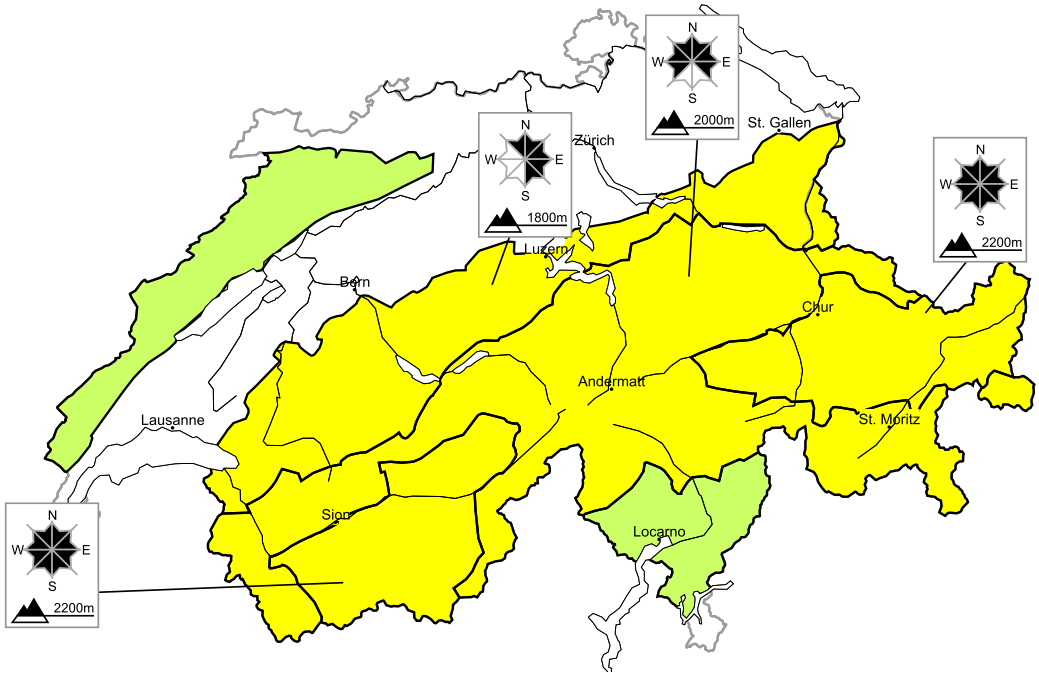
9.2.2020, 07:53

Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

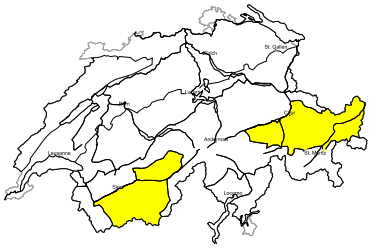
Edition: 9.2.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 9.2.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 9.2.2020, 08:00

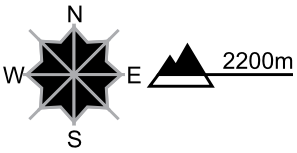


region A — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are difficult to recognise. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
In addition mostly small wind slabs will form as the day progresses, especially adjacent to ridgelines at elevated altitudes.
Careful route selection and spacing between individuals are recommended.

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

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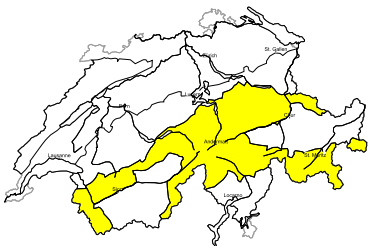
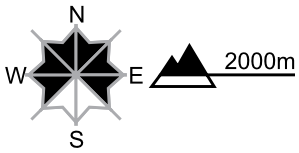
region B — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

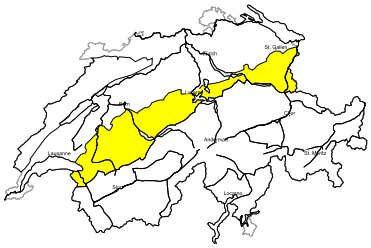
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

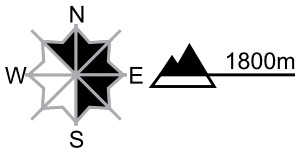
The older wind slabs are in individual cases still prone to triggering. As a consequence of a strengthening southwesterly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form as the day progresses, especially adjacent to ridgelines at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for meticulous route selection.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

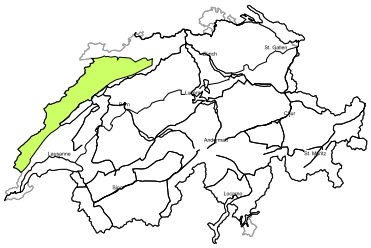
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strengthening southwesterly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form as the day progresses, especially adjacent to ridgelines. These are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain.

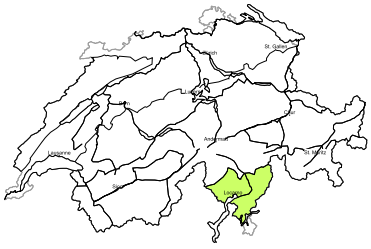
region D — Level 1, low



Wind slabs

The fresh wind slabs are mostly only small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region E — Level 1, low



No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 8.2.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong-velocity southwesterly winds, fresh snowdrift accumulations will be generated during the course of the day at high altitudes more than anywhere else. The older snowdrift accumulations have for the most part settled well and are adequately bonded with the rain crust which lies beneath them. On steep south-facing slopes, solar radiation has formed a breakable melt-freeze crust on the snowpack surface. Beneath the rain crust the snow cover is soft and thoroughly wet below approximately 2200 to 2400 m.
More deeply embedded inside the snow cover, particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons in relatively wind-protected places, weak layers are evident. Increasingly frequently, avalanche releases have again been reported which have fractured in these weak layers.
The activity of gliding avalanches is currently low. Nevertheless, isolated releases cannot be ruled out.

Observed weather on Saturday, 08.02.2020

Following a night of predominantly clear skies it was quite sunny during the daytime, apart from high-altitude cloudbanks which in some regions were quite dense.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in the northern regions and -1 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds were blowing at predominantly light-to-moderate strength from southwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 09.02.2020

Nighttime skies will be predominantly clear. During the daytime it will be rather sunny, apart from a few high-altitude clouds. As evening approaches, the cloud cover will increase, but it is expected to still remain dry.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +4 °C in the northern regions and -2 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- In the northern regions southwesterly winds will be blowing at increasingly strong-to-stormy strength; during the course of the day, foehn wind will arise;
- in the Valais, Ticino and Grisons, southwesterly winds will arise at high altitudes; during the afternoon blowing at moderate to strong velocity.

Outlook through Tuesday, 11.02.2020

In the northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy on both days and repeated bouts of snowfall are anticipated, some of which will be persistent, particularly on Tuesday in the furthermost western regions and on the northern flank of the Alps. The snowfall level is expected to descend from approximately 2000 m to approximately 1000 m on Monday. A stormy to gale-strength westerly to southwesterly wind will be blowing. Consequently, the fresh snow and old snow alike will be transported. The danger of dry-snow avalanches is expected to increase significantly at high altitudes. At intermediate altitudes, gliding avalanches will be possible.
In the southern regions the westerly wind will also be blowing at storm strength, but only a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will also increase, but less drastically than in the northern regions.