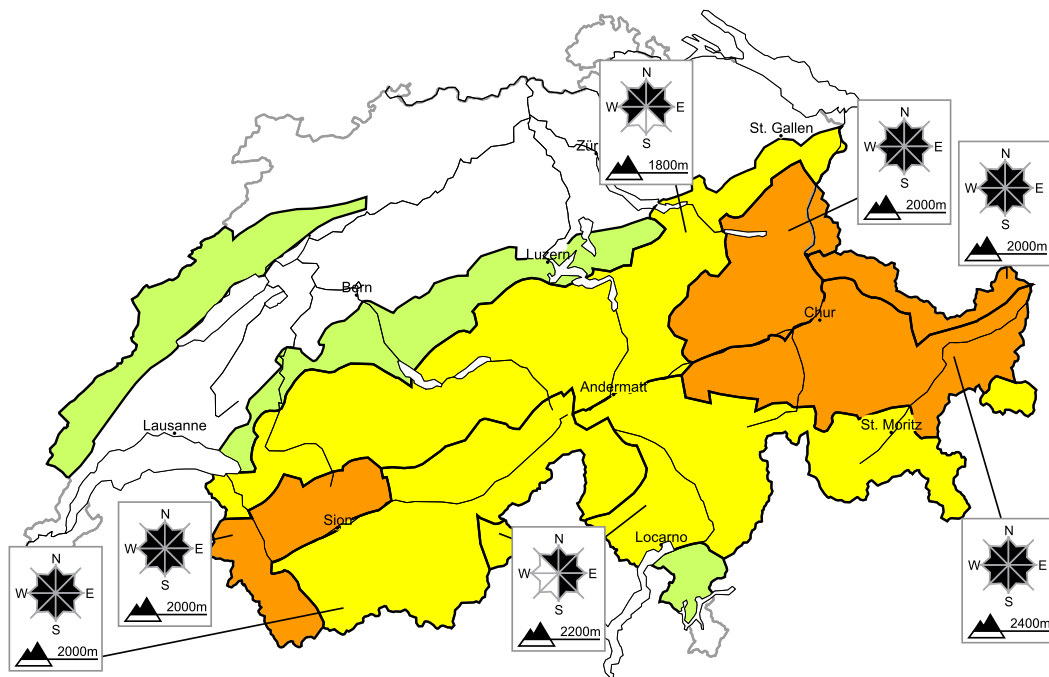


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 13.2.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 13.2.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 13.2.2020, 08:00



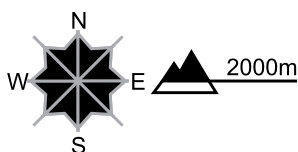
region A

Level 3, considerable



New snow and wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

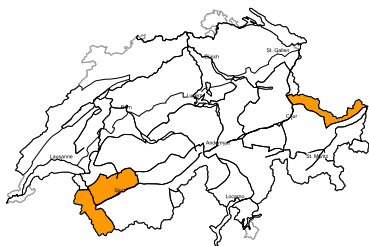


Danger description

The fresh snow and wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. As a consequence of a strengthening southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form as the day progresses. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

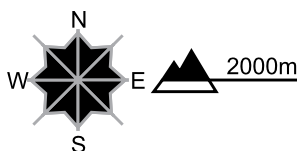
region B

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

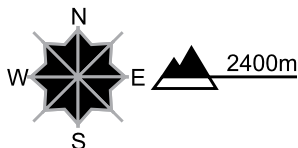
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

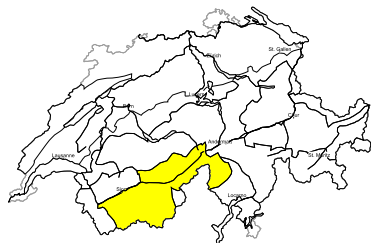
Fresh and older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. Mostly the avalanches are medium-sized.

Additionally in some places avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are difficult to recognise. Isolated whumpung sounds can indicate the danger.

Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

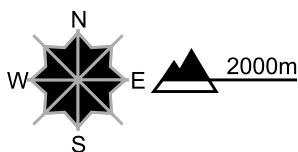
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



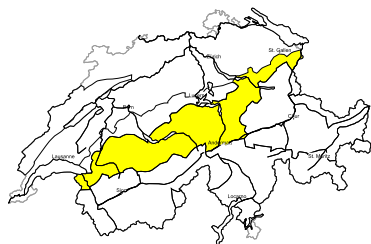
Danger description

Fresh and older wind slabs are to be assessed with care and prudence. They can in some places be released by people. Avalanches can reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Valais: Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye.

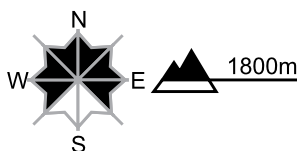
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

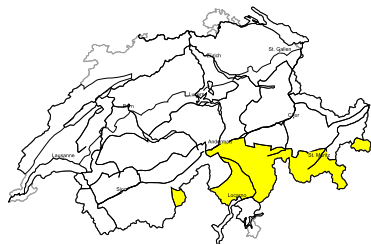


Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are to be found in particular on north and east facing slopes. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Avalanches can be released by people and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

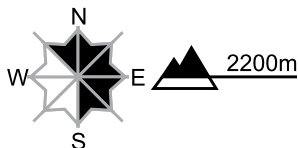
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

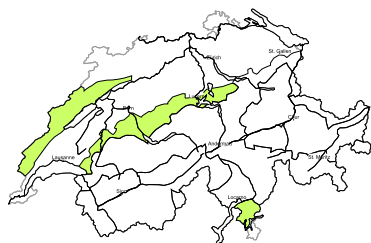


Danger description

As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, rather small wind slabs formed. These are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular 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.

region G

Level 1, low



Wind slabs

The small wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in extreme terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 12.2.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

During the last few days, storm-strength winds have transported the fresh snow and old snow intensively. The snowdrift accumulations which are wide-ranging in some places lie deposited distant from ridgelines for the most part due to storm-strength winds. Crests and summits are frequently windblown, completely bare of snow. The snowdrift accumulations are still easy to trigger in some places. Particularly in the eastern regions they are blanketed with loosely-packed fresh snow. More deeply embedded inside the snowpack, particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, and in isolated cases also in other regions, there are weak layers evident in relatively wind-protected places. These are predominantly snow-covered, expansively metamorphosed (faceted) snowpack surfaces which formed during the extended period of fine weather conditions in January. Particularly in central Grisons, isolated avalanche releases have been reported having released from these layers in the last few days.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 12.02.2020

During Tuesday night there was only a small amount of snowfall in the western and the northern regions, with the exception of the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps and northern Grisons into Samnaun. During the daytime the precipitation came to an end there as well. From the west there were increasingly frequent bright intervals. On the southern flank of the Alps and in the Upper Engadine it was predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

On Tuesday night there was snowfall registered below 1000 m:

- eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm;
- northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; or else it remained dry.

Thus, between Sunday night and Wednesday morning, the following amounts of snowfall have been registered above 2200 m:

- northern and furthestmost western parts of Lower Valais, eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps: 40 to 60 cm;
- remaining parts of Lower Valais, Bedretto, upper valleys of Maggia, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -7 °C.

Wind

- In the northern regions, winds were blowing at moderate-to-strong velocity from westerly directions;
- on the southern flank of the Alps, blowing at moderate strength from northerly directions.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 13.02.2020

Following a night of predominantly clear skies, cloud cover will move in from the west in the early morning. Further to the east, it will be partly sunny in the morning, with some foehn influence. In the southern regions it will be predominantly sunny in the morning hours, subsequently skies will turn overcast. As of midday in the western regions, precipitation will set in, which subsequently will extend further towards the east during the afternoon. In Grisons and in the furthestmost southern regions, it will remain dry.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level is expected to incrementally descend from approximately 1600 m down to nearly 1000 m. By Thursday afternoon, only a small amount of fresh snow is anticipated:

- western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, western part of Lower Valais, on the highest summits of the Jura range: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; or else it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000, between 0 °C in the northern regions and -6 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be westerly to southwesterly,

- during Wednesday night blowing temporarily at moderate strength;
- during the course of the day, intensifying to strong-to-storm strength.

Outlook through Saturday, 15.02.2020

Friday

On Thursday night, snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas which will be deposited to below 1000 m, with the focal point in the northern sector of the Alpine Ridge. During the course of the day it will become increasingly sunny from the west. In the southern regions, it will be predominantly sunny. In the mountains a westerly to northwesterly wind will be blowing, initially at strong to storm-strength, subsequently slacken off somewhat during the course of the day. Avalanche danger levels are expected to increase on Thursday night particularly in the northern regions.

Saturday

It will be predominantly sunny and significantly milder in the mountains, temperatures at approximately 0° C at 3000 m. The danger of dry-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly. As a result of the noticeably rising temperatures, moist-snow slides and avalanches can be expected.