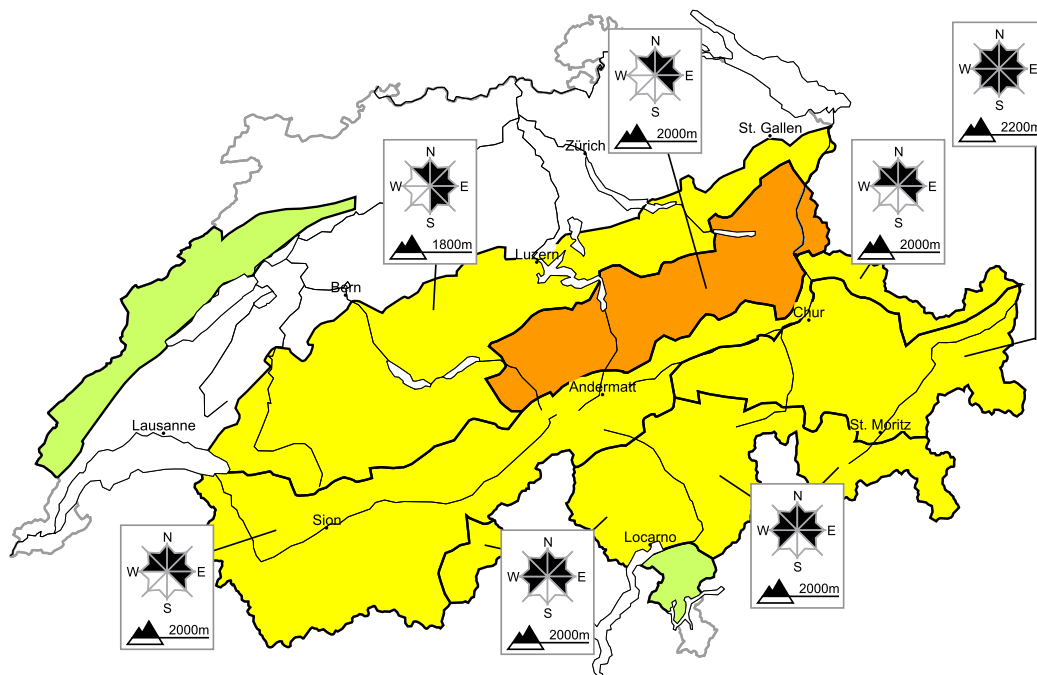


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Wind slabs require caution

Edition: 16.2.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 16.2.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 16.2.2020, 08:00



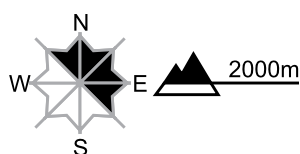
region A

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strengthening southwesterly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form in particular on north and east facing slopes. These are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Mostly the avalanches are medium-sized. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. The wind slabs are to be avoided.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes more frequent moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

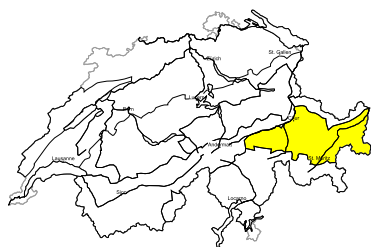
5 very high



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 www.slf.ch

region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

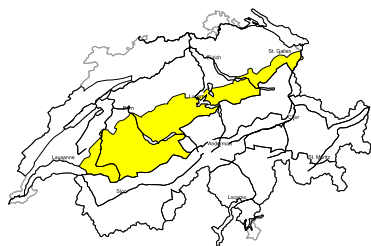
In isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare and are difficult to recognise. Isolated whumping sounds can indicate the danger. In addition rather small wind slabs will form as the day progresses. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes more frequent moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m.

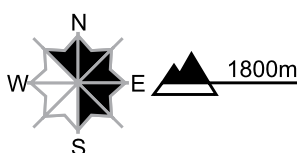
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

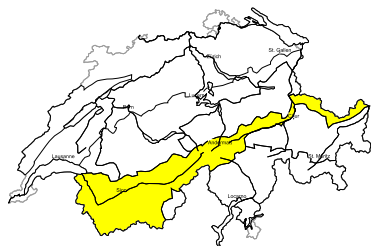
As a consequence of a strengthening southwesterly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form in particular on north and east facing slopes. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Avalanches can be released by people and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes more frequent moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m.

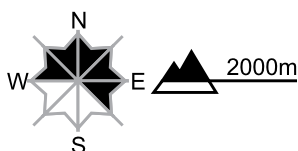
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

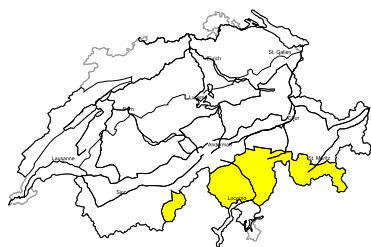
As a consequence of a strengthening southwesterly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form in particular on north and east facing slopes. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Avalanches can be released by people and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes more frequent moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2400 m.

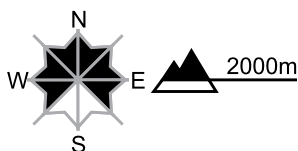
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

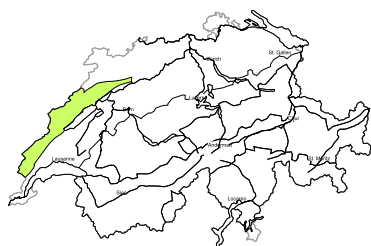


Danger description

Fresh and older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. These are mostly small. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

region F

Level 1, low

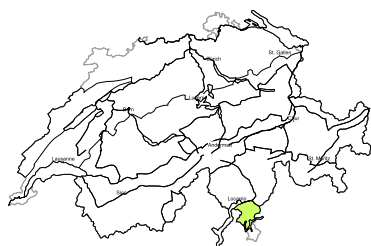


Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming moist snow slides are to be expected. Mostly these are small. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region G

Level 1, low



No distinct avalanche problem

Older wind slabs are in individual cases still prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. They are small. They 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 15.2.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

The instability within the fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts from the most recent period of precipitation and storm-strength winds is diminishing. As a result of strong southwesterly winds, predominantly small-sized snowdrift accumulations are being generated particularly on north and east-facing slopes which are prone to triggering. In the foehn-exposed regions of the east more than anywhere else, these can also grow to larger size.

As a consequence of mild temperatures, the snow cover, particularly on steep south-facing slopes, has become superficially moist up nearly as far as 3000 m. During the nocturnal hours a breakable crust generally forms. More deeply embedded inside the snowpack there are weak layers evident in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and to some extent also in the Valais more than anywhere else. These are for the most part layers of snow-blanketed, expansively metamorphosed (faceted) crystals generated on the surface during the period of fine weather in January; or, somewhat higher up inside the snowpack, weak layers in the vicinity of crusts. As stability tests and avalanches have demonstrated, it is possible for avalanches to release from these layers.

Observed weather on Saturday, 15.02.2020

Apart from high-altitude cloudbanks passing through it was sunny and, at high altitudes, mild.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +5 °C in the northern regions and +1 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds were blowing at light-to-moderate strength from the southwest.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 16.02.2020

It is expected to be rather sunny and, at high altitudes, very mild. The zero-degree level will ascend to over 3000 m.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +8 °C in the northern regions and +4 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be southwesterly,

- in the northern regions blowing at moderate strength, during the afternoon intensifying incrementally to strong velocity; in the Alpine valleys foehn wind will be blowing;
- in the southern regions, blowing at moderate strength.

Outlook through Tuesday, 18.02.2020

Monday

During the morning hours, skies will be variably cloudy to start with, in the Valais and in Grisons it will be quite sunny. Subsequently, cloud cover will become heavier and during the afternoon precipitation will set in. The snowfall level will descend from 2000 m down to nearly 1200 m, in the southern regions down to nearly 1500 m. Winds will be blowing at strong velocity from westerly directions. The avalanche danger levels will increase somewhat in the northern regions more than anywhere else.

Tuesday

It will be partly sunny. The precipitation will come to an end during the morning. The westerly-to-northwesterly wind will slacken off somewhat. Avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.