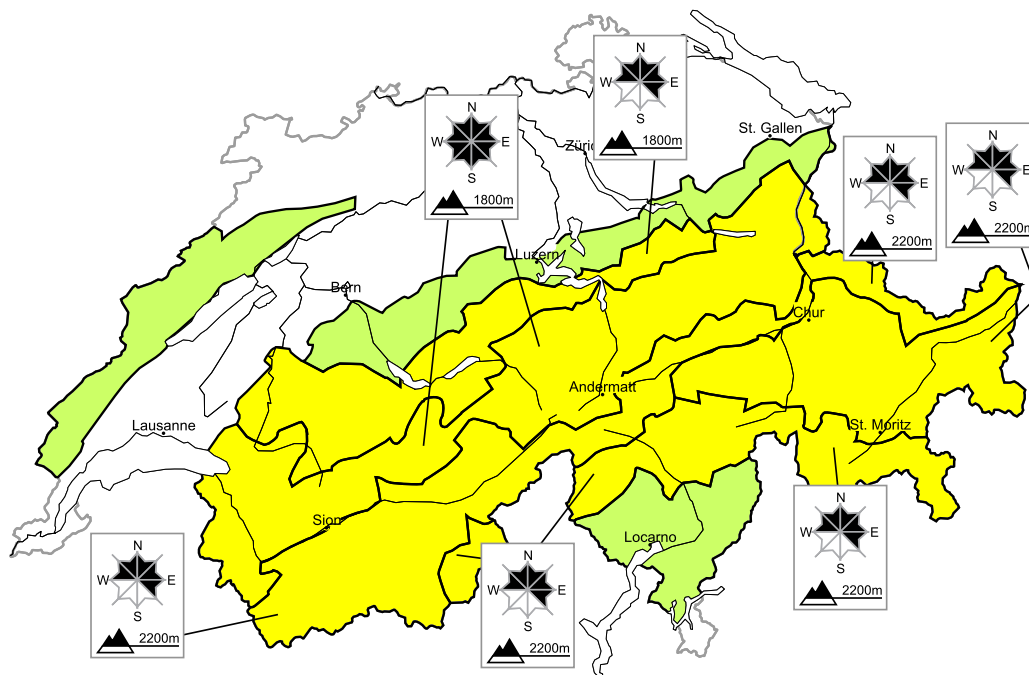


# Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Fresh wind slabs require caution

Edition: 18.2.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 18.2.2020, 17:00

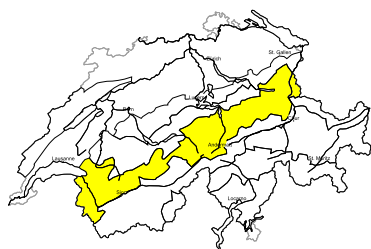
## Avalanche danger

updated on 18.2.2020, 08:00



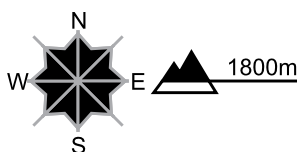
region A

Level 2, moderate



### Wind slabs

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and wind from westerly directions, wind slabs formed. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The wind slabs in very steep terrain are to be bypassed as far as possible. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. They can in isolated cases reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

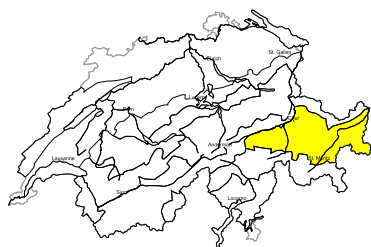
5 very high



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Avalanche Research SLF  
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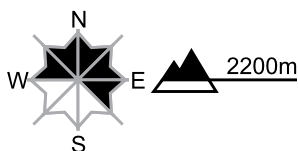
**region B**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



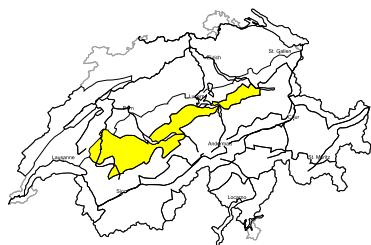
**Danger description**

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow. They can reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare and are difficult to recognise. Isolated whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger.

In addition the mostly small wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering in some cases still. Careful route selection is important.

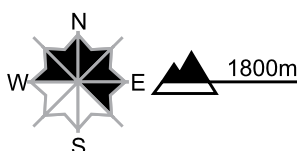
**region C**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of new snow and wind from westerly directions, small wind slabs formed. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases.

Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

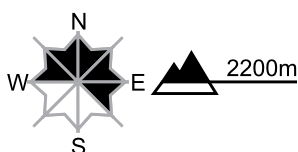
**region D**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**

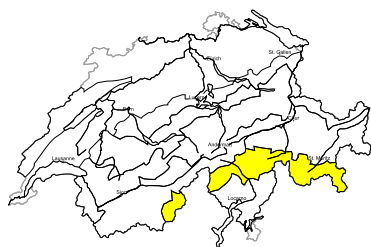


**Danger description**

As a consequence of new snow and wind from westerly directions, mostly small wind slabs formed. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. Careful route selection is important.

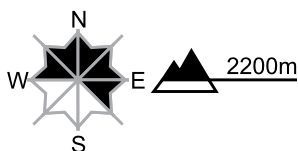
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The mostly small wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

**region F**

**Level 1, low**



**Wind slabs**

As a consequence of new snow and wind from westerly directions, small wind slabs formed in some localities. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

**region G**

**Level 1, low**



**No distinct avalanche problem**

The fresh and older wind slabs are in isolated cases 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 17.2.2020, 17:00

### Snowpack

Fresh snow and a moderate to strong wind will give rise to small to medium-sized snow drift accumulations, in particular in the north. In many cases they will bond quite well with the old snowpack.

Weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack, in particular in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in some cases in Valais as well. They consist mostly of the buried, faceted snow surface originating from the long period of fine weather in January, or of weak layers in the vicinity of crusts a little nearer the surface of the snowpack. Stability tests and avalanches have shown that avalanches can be released in these layers.

### Observed weather on Monday, 17.02.2020

In the east and in Grisons, until the afternoon it was sunny at times and dry. Elsewhere, cloud built up from the west and in the far south in the morning, and around midday precipitation commenced in the Jura and the far west. In the afternoon it spread to encompass the entire northern flank of the Alps and Valais. The snowfall level dropped from 1800 m to 1400 m.

#### Fresh snow

In the period from Monday midday to Monday afternoon a few centimetres of snow fell above approximately 2000 m in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and in western Lower Valais.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between +6 °C in Valais and Grisons, +2 °C in the other northern regions, and 0 °C in Ticino

#### Wind

From the south to southwest

- Moderate to strong on the northern Alpine ridge from Chablais to the Urn Alps, and in Lower Valais and southern Grisons
- Otherwise mostly light to moderate

### Weather forecast through Tuesday, 18.02.2020

Snow will fall on Monday night except on the southern flank of the Alps; the largest quantities will fall in the north. The snowfall level will drop from 1400 m to 800 m. In the morning in the east there will be some residual cloud and final snowflakes. Otherwise, it will be partly sunny in the north. It will be mostly sunny in the inneralpine regions and in the west and south.

#### Fresh snow

From Monday afternoon until Tuesday morning above approximately 1600 m:

- Vaud Alps, northern Alpine ridge, extreme west of Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm, but up to 30 cm in some localities
- Jura, rest of the northern flank of the Alps, rest of Lower Valais and of both Goms and northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 5 to 10 cm
- Elsewhere: a few centimetres, remaining dry in the south

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -6 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south

#### Wind

On Monday night in the north and at elevated altitudes, moderate to strong, otherwise light to moderate from the west

**Outlook** through Thursday, 20.02.2020

**Wednesday**

In the north a little snow will fall above approximately 600 m. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be sunny at times. At elevated altitudes there will be a strong northwesterly wind. As a consequence of fresh snow and wind, the avalanche danger will increase on the northern flank of the Alps in particular. In the other regions it will not change significantly.

**Thursday**

On Thursday morning residual cloud will persist in the north in particular. Otherwise, the weather will be mostly sunny. The avalanche danger will decrease.