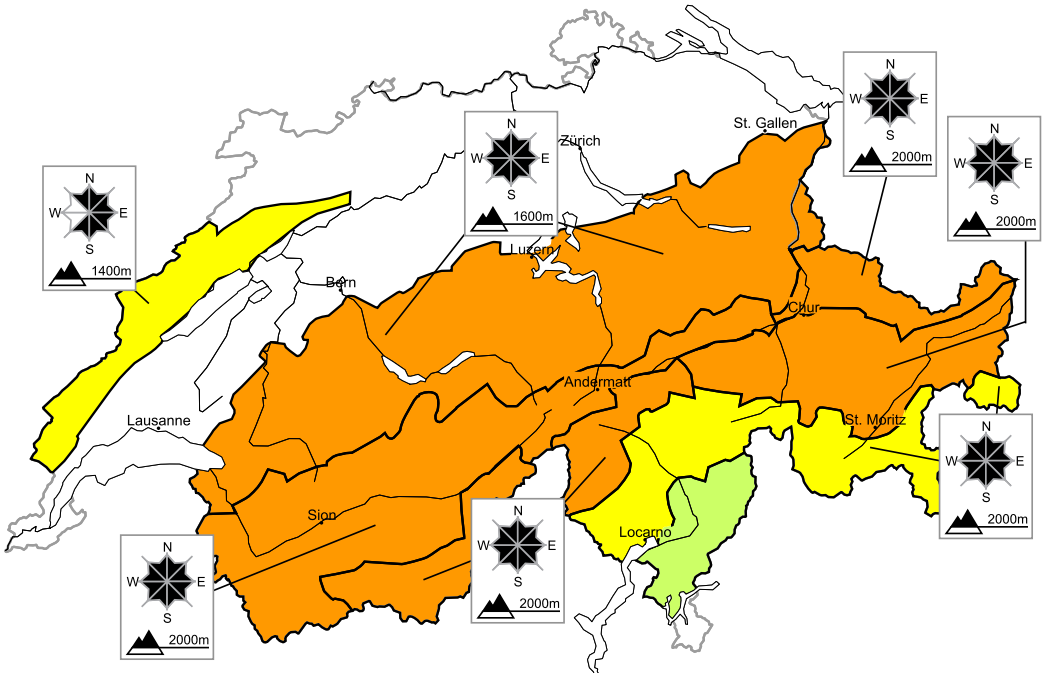
Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 28 February 2020

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 28.2.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 28.2.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

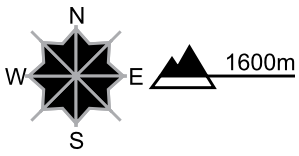
updated on 28.2.2020, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

New snow

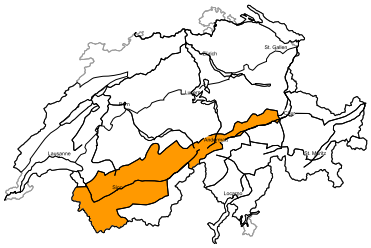
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

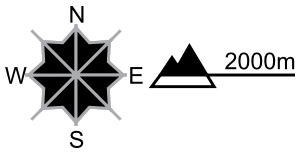
The fresh snow and the extensive wind slabs formed during the snowfall represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. Individual natural avalanches are possible.
Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

region B — Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and the large wind slabs formed during the snowfall represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. Individual natural avalanches are possible.
Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

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

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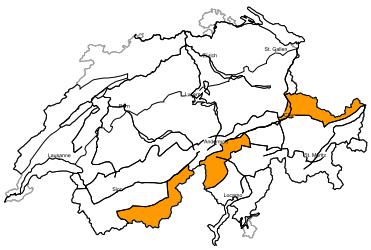
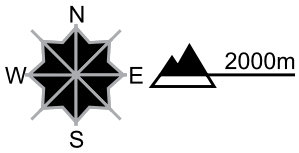
region C — Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



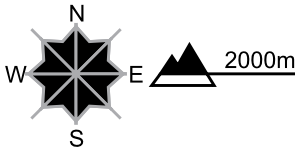
Danger description

The fresh snow and the large wind slabs formed during the snowfall represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

region D — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs, old snow

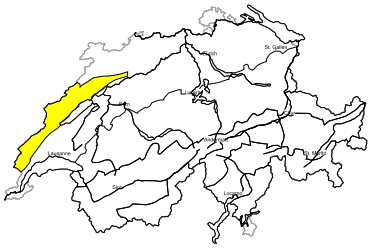
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

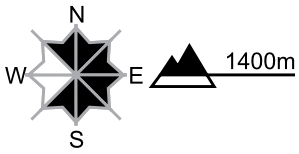
As a consequence of new snow and a strong wind, sometimes large wind slabs formed. They are in some cases prone to triggering. Occasionally large avalanches are possible in particular in the regions exposed to heavier precipitation.
Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow. They can reach dangerously large size. Such avalanche prone locations are rare but are difficult to recognise. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region E — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

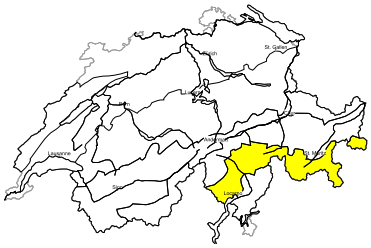
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

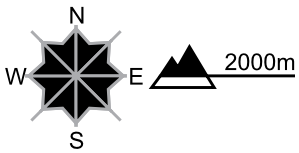
The fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. Mostly the avalanches are medium-sized.
The fresh wind slabs are to be bypassed.

region F — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. They can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. In some cases the avalanches are medium-sized.

Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

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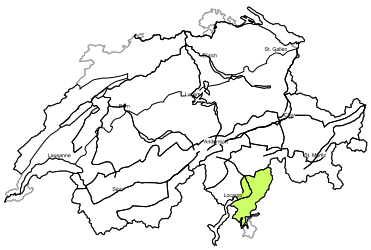
region G

Level 1, low



Wind slabs

The more recent wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They can be released in isolated cases. Mostly the avalanches are only small. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 27.2.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of foehn windstorms the fresh snow which was deposited during the course of this last week has been heavily transported. In many places, both fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts lie deposited on top of a quite favourable old snowpack surface. For that reason, avalanche triggerings are more to be expected from within the layers of fresh snow and fresh snowdrifts.
More deeply embedded inside the snowpack, particularly in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and to some extent also of the Valais, there are weak layers evident above approximately 2400 m more than anywhere else. Particularly in the central Valais it is possible that avalanches sweep along these weak layers. In Grisons, a triggering is currently unlikely. For more than a week, only very few avalanche triggerings have been reported having fractured in the old snow.

Observed weather on Thursday, 27.02.2020

During the night in the northern regions more than anywhere else, there was snowfall. In the morning hours in the southern and eastern regions it was quite sunny to start with, subsequently cloud cover moved in and precipitation again set in. The snowfall level ascended to nearly 1400 m during the afternoon.

Fresh snow

Between Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon, above 1400 m:
- Lower Valais not including Arolla, northern Grisons, northern flank of the Alps: mostly 40 to 60 cm;
- Jura region, remaining parts of the Valais, remaining parts of the Gotthard region, upper valleys of Maggia, northern Grisons: 15 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; in the furthermost regions of the south it remained dry.

Temperature

Temperatures increased starting in the west, at midday at 2000 m to between -2 °C in the western regions and -8 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

- During the night blowing at moderate to strong velocity from westerly to northweasterly directions;
- during the daytime becoming increasingly strong in velocity, reaching storm strength, from the southwest; in the Alpine valleys of the north, strong-velocity foehn wind.

Weather forecast through Friday, 28.02.2020

During the night in the northern regions, frequent snowfall is anticipated. The precipitation will come to an end in the latter part of the nocturnal hours in the western regions, in the early morning hours in the eastern regions. Subsequently it will become quite sunny, before renewed cloud cover moves in from the west during the afternoon. In the southern regions it will be quite sunny. The snowfall level will swiftly descend from 1400 m down to low lying areas.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday afternoon and Friday morning above 1400 m:
- northern Alpine Ridge east of the Finsteraarhorn, Prättigau, Silvretta: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 10 to 20 cm over widespread areas;
- on the southern flank of the Alps, southern Goms, central Grisons, Engadine: less; or else it will remain dry.

Temperature

Temperatures will rise during the course of the day starting in the west: at midday at 2000 m to between -4 °C in the western regions and -10 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

On Thursday evening, a strong to storm-strength southwesterly wind will still be blowing, subsequently shifting to northerly-to-northwesterly;
- during the nighttime hours blowing at strong velocity in the southern regions at storm strength until midday;
- in the other regions of Switzerland winds will be blowing predominantly at moderate strength.

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Outlook through Sunday, 01.03.2020

Saturday

On Saturday it will be partly sunny to begin with. Subsequently cloud cover is expected to move in from the west. During the afternoon in the western and the southern regoins, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated above 1400 m. As a result of foehn windstorms it will be mild in the northern regions. Avalanche danger levels will remain critical in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs.

Sunday

On Saturday night, snowfall is expected over widespread areas above 1000 m. During the daytime on Sunday, skies will be predominantly overcast in the northern regions, accompanied by some sunny intervals; in the southern regions it will be quite sunny. Temperatures will again descend significantly. Winds will be blowing at strong velocity from westerly directions. Avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.