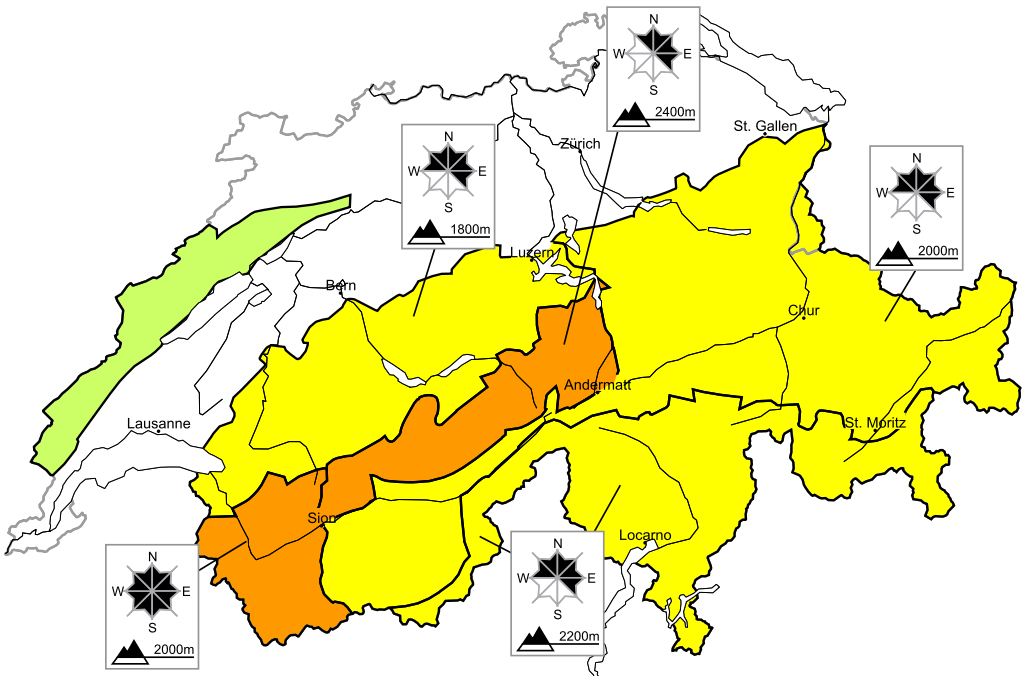
Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 2 March 2020

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 2.3.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 2.3.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

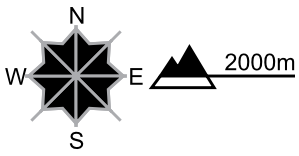
updated on 2.3.2020, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



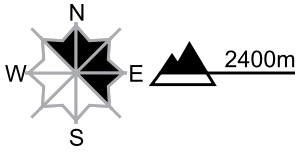
Danger description

The fresh snow and the sometimes large wind slabs are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. Natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

region B — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

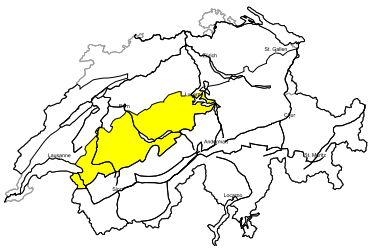
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

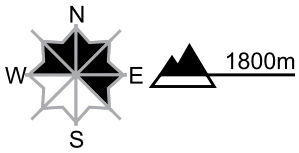
The fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

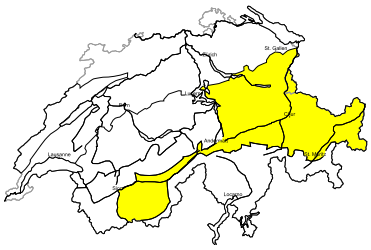
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

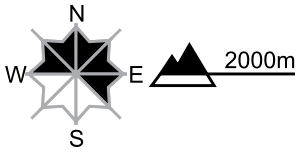
The somewhat older wind slabs are to be found in particular areas not adjacent to ridgelines. They can be released, especially by large additional loads,. Caution is to be exercised at their margins in particular. In some cases avalanches are medium-sized. The avalanche prone locations are covered with new snow and are difficult to recognise.
As a consequence of new snow and a moderate to strong southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form in particular in gullies and bowls and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They can be released easily, but they will be small in most cases.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

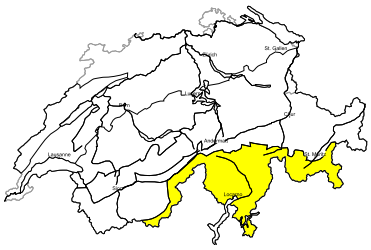
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

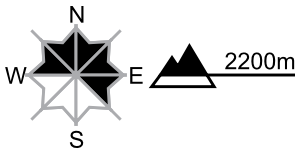
The somewhat older wind slabs are to be found in particular areas not adjacent to ridgelines. They can be released, especially by large additional loads,. Caution is to be exercised at their margins in particular. In some cases avalanches are medium-sized.
As a consequence of a moderate to strong southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form in particular in gullies and bowls and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They can in some places be released easily, but they will be small in most cases.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region E — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs can still be released in some cases. Mostly the avalanches are small.
As a consequence of new snow and wind, further wind slabs will form. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase in the afternoon. By the evening probably danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

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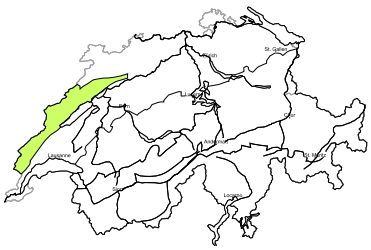
region F

Level 1, low



Wind slabs

As a consequence of new snow and southwesterly wind, wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes. These are only small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in extreme terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 1.3.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

The large-sized snowdrift accumulations which were generated by the foehn windstorms on Saturday are rapidly stabilising. On the other hand, the generally small-sized snowdrift accumulations which formed in the areas where fresh snowfall was heaviest on Saturday night are frequently likely to trigger.
More deeply embedded inside the snowpack, particularly in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in isolated cases also in the Valais, weak layers are evident above approximately 2400 m more than anywhere else. Avalanche triggerings in these layers are currently unlikely.
On the northern flank of the Alps, however also in central Grisons and in the Upper Engadine, there is generally less snow on the ground than is customary for this juncture of the season. Particularly on the northern flank of the Alps, ridgeline terrain has been blown completely bare of snow during the various phases of storm-strength winds this winter. In the remaining regions of Switzerland there is an average amount of snow for this point of the season, in far-reaching parts of the Valais and of the northern Ticino there is more than usual.

Observed weather on Sunday, 01.03.2020

Following a night of predominantly overcast skies accompanied by precipitation, it was sunny for the most part during the daytime, before renewed cloud cover moved in from the west.

Fresh snow

On Saturday night above approximately 1500 m:
- northern and western parts of Lower Valais: 20 to 30 cm;
- remaining parts of Lower Valais as well as central and northern Upper Valais, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, western part of Bernese Oberland: 10 to 20 cm;
- remaining parts of western and central sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, Upper Engadine: 5 to 10 cm; in the other regions of Switzerland, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C.

Wind

Winds were westerly to southwesterly,
- initially blowing at strong to storm strength during the nocturnal hours;
- blowing predominantly at light to moderate strength during the course of the day.

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Weather forecast through Monday, 02.03.2020

In the early part of Sunday night, precipitation is anticipated in all regions of Switzerland, the focal point will be in the northern and furthermost western parts of the Lower Valais. Following a brief phase where skies will be clear, cloud cover will again move into the western and southern regions in the early morning hours; in the eastern regions there will be foehn-generated bright intervals. By midday precipitation will again set in from the south and the west, and by evening will extend throughout all the regions of Switzerland. Most of the precipitation is anticipated on the southern flank of the Alps.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level will lie at 1000 m. By Monday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected:

- northern and furthermost western parts of Lower Valais, Main Alpine Ridge from Monte Rosa region as far as Bernina Pass and southwards therefrom: 15 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland 5 to 15 cm; in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, as well as in northern Grisons, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the northern regions and -5 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- On Sunday night in northern regions and in general at high altitudes, strong to storm strength winds from westerly directions;
- during the daytime on the northern Alpine Ridge, strong to storm-strength southwesterly winds in some places, and foehn wind;
- during the afternoon in Grisons, strong to storm-strength southwesterly winds, significantly slackening off in the western regions.

Outlook through Wednesday, 04.03.2020

Tuesday

On Monday night, snowfall down to low lying areas is expected, then subsequently in northern and eastern regions in particular during the daytime. Further towards the west, bright intervals are anticipated during the course of the day. In the southern regions it will become increasingly sunny as a result of strong-velocity northerly winds. Avalanche danger levels are expected to increase over widespread areas.

Wednesday

In the eastern regions it will be partly sunny. In the western regions it will be variably cloudy accompanied by bright intervals. In the southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. Winds will be blowing mostly at light to moderate strength from northerly directions. It is expected to remain cold. Avalanche danger levels will incrementally decrease.