Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 5 March 2020

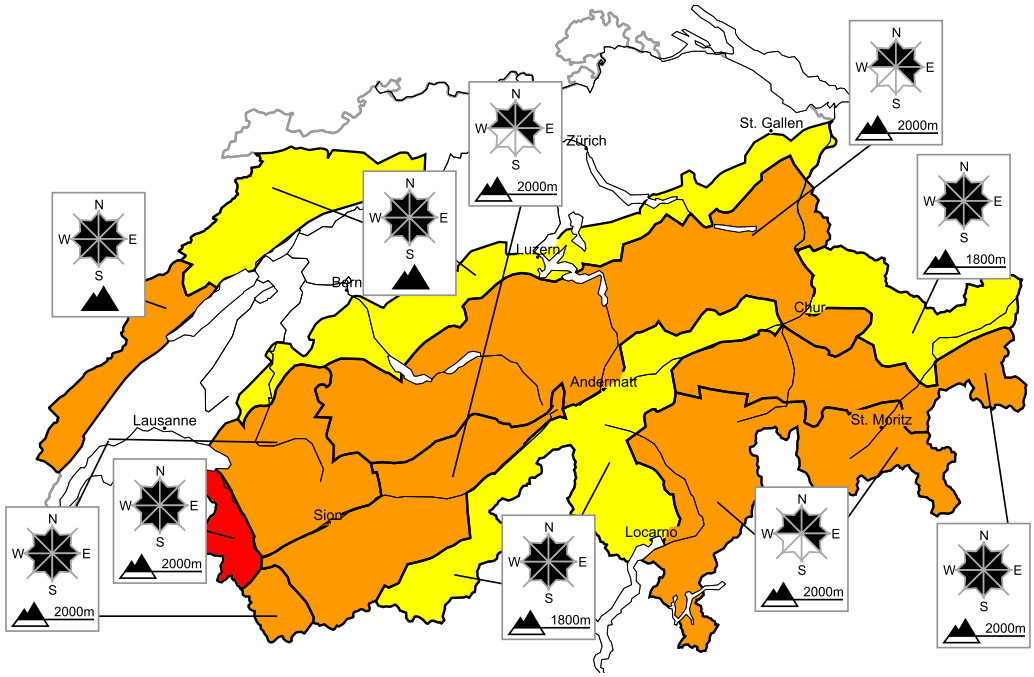
5.3.2020, 07:58

In the west a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 5.3.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 5.3.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

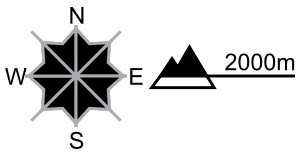
updated on 5.3.2020, 08:00



region A — Level 4, high

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

30 to 50 cm of snow will fall until the evening above approximately 2000 m. Danger level 4 (high) will be reached in the afternoon.
Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. As a consequence of warming, the likelihood of avalanches being released will increase. An increasing number of natural avalanches are to be expected. In the afternoon individual very large avalanches are possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases.
Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. The conditions are critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain wet avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses. These can reach large size. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases.

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

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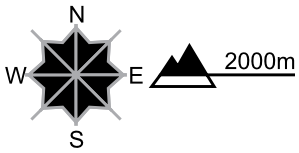
region B — Level 3, considerable

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. As a consequence of warming, the likelihood of avalanches being released will increase. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. As a consequence of the heavy precipitation more frequent natural avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses, even large ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

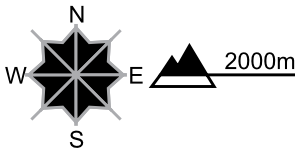
Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain wet avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses. These can reach large size.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



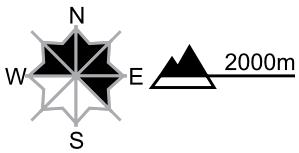
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches.
In very isolated cases avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size. This applies in particular on wind-protected slopes above approximately 2400 m.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region D — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. As a consequence of warming, the likelihood of avalanches being released will increase. Avalanches can in isolated cases reach large size. The fresh wind slabs are to be avoided in steep terrain.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain wet avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses. In particular on steep north and east facing slopes these can reach large size.

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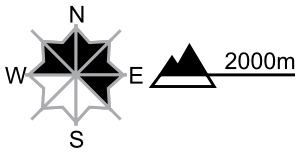
region E — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



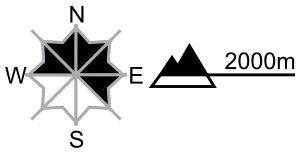
Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. As a consequence of new snow and strong wind the wind slabs will increase in size additionally in the afternoon. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region F — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



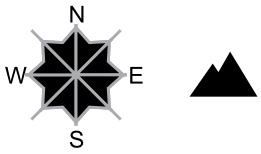
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. Wind slabs can especially at their margins be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region G — Level 3, considerable

Wet avalanches

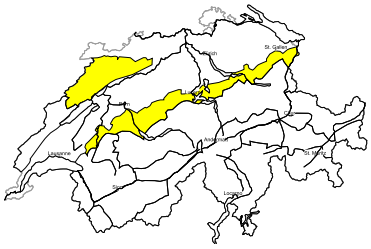
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

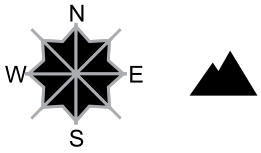
As a consequence of the rain there will be an increase in the danger of wet avalanches. Natural wet avalanches are to be expected, in particular medium-sized ones. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region H — Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As the snowfall level rises there will be an increase in the danger of wet avalanches. An increasing number of natural avalanches are possible as the day progresses. Mostly these are small.

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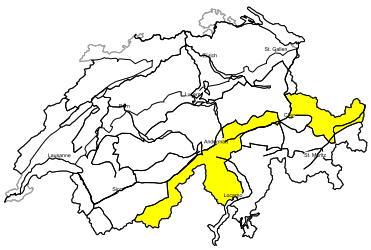
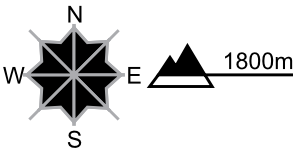
region I

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In the course of the day the previously small wind slabs will increase in size. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The fresh wind slabs can in some cases be released easily. Older wind slabs can be released, especially by large additional loads,, especially at their margins. Careful route selection is advisable.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.3.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

Fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts from the beginning of the week are still prone to triggering in some places. As a result of higher temperatures and rainfall, the snowpack is being weakened, in particular on the northern flank of the Alps and in the western regions.
More deeply embedded inside the snowpack, particularly in the inneralpine regions on wind-protected slopes above approximately 2400 m, weak layers are evident. In the inneralpine regions of Grisons more than anywhere else, avalanche triggerings are possible in these layers in isolated cases.
At 2000 m the snowpack is of average snow-depth over widespread areas for this juncture of the season; on the northern flank of the Alps, snow depths are below average in places. There, ridgeline terrain has been blown completely bare of snow during various stormy phases this winter. In the Lower Valais, in the Vaud Alps and in wide-ranging parts of Ticino and the Engadine, there is more snow than average.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 04.03.2020

In the northeastern regions, a small amount of snowfall was registered down to low lying areas during the nocturnal hours. As of this morning, bright intervals were evident. In the remaining regions of Switzerland it was quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Since Tuesday afternoon the following amounts of fresh snow have been registered:
· eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps: approximately 10 cm;
· remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps and northern Grisons: only a few centimetres from place to place.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -5 °C in the southern and the western regions and -8 °C in the northeastern regions.

Wind

· Winds were blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly directions,
· in the southern regions blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northerly directions during the nocturnal hours, slackening off during the daytime

Weather forecast through Thursday, 05.03.2020

Skies will be heavily overcast and starting in the early morning hours, precipitation will set in. Most of the precipitation is expected to fall in the Jura and the western regions. The snowfall level in the furthermost western regions and on the northern flank of the Alps will ascend to approximate 2000 m, in inneralpine regions and the south it will lie at 1000 m.

Fresh snow

By Thursday afternoon at high altitudes, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:
· northern Valais, furthermost western part of Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm;
· in the other regions of Switzerland: 5 to 10 cm over widespread areas; in Grisons and in southern Ticino, less.
In the Jura region, only a few centimetres of snowfall is expected to start with, subsequently 10 to 20 mm of rain.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C on the northern flank of the Alps and -6 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

· During the daytime, strong southwesterly winds will be blowing;
· in the Alpine valleys of the north, foehn winds will come up;
· in the southern regions winds will be light.

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Outlook through Saturday, 07.03.2020

Friday

The westerly winds and foehn wind will be blowing at strong to storm strength during the nighttime hours, subsequently will slacken off. Skies will be heavily overcast. In the western regions, persistent precipitation is expected, in the other regions only intermittent precipitation. The amounts of precipitation are still uncertain. The snowfall level will rapidly descend down to low lying areas. In the furthermost southern regions it will be rather sunny as a result of the moderate-strength northwesterly winds.
In the southern regions and in Grisons, avalanche danger levels for dry-snow avalanches are not expected to change significantly. In the other regions of Switzerland, danger levels will incresae, in the furthermost western regions significantly. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will decrease significantly in all regions of Switzerland.

Saturday

Skies will be variably cloudy to heavily overcast. Intermittent snowfall down to low lying areas in anticipated. In the furthermost southern regions it will be rather sunny.
Avalanche danger levels will decrease somewhat in the western regions. In the northern regions, avalanche danger could increase somewhat as a result of the fresh snow. In the other regions of Switzerland, danger levels are not expected to change significantly.