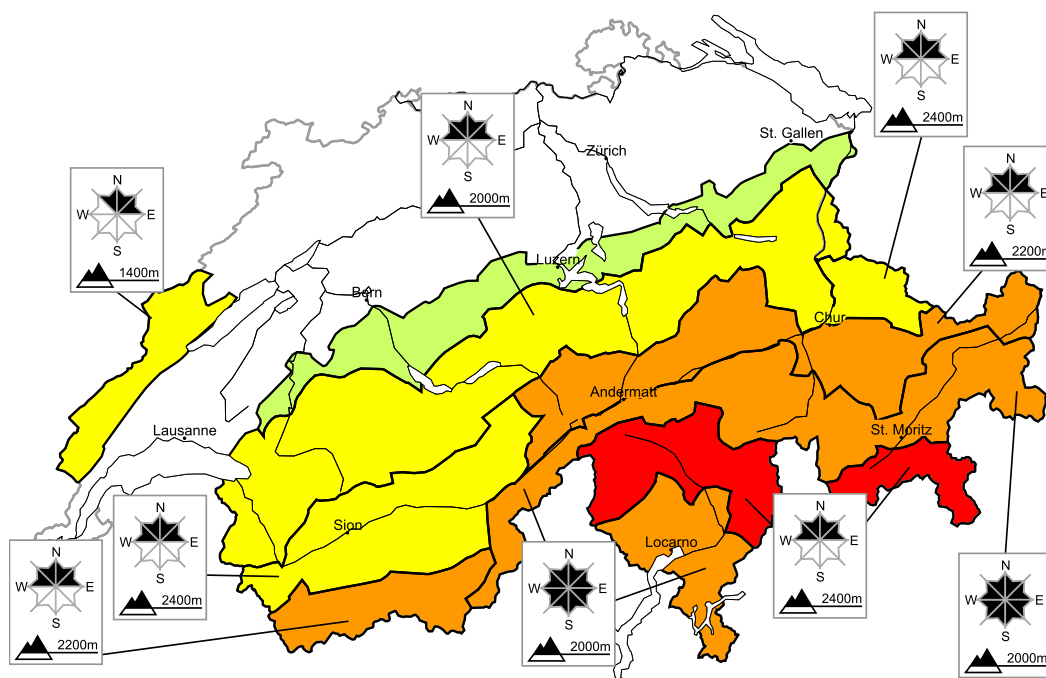


# In the south a lot of new snow: High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 4.12.2020, 17:00 / Next update: 5.12.2020, 17:00

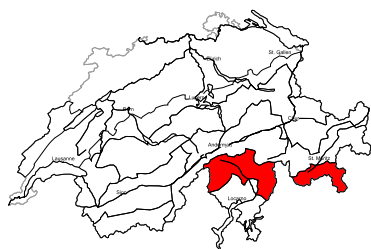
## Avalanche danger

updated on 4.12.2020, 17:00



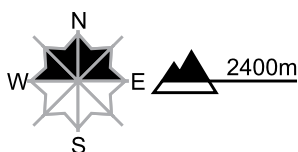
region A

Level 4, high



### New snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

The large quantity of fresh snow and the large wind slabs that are being formed by the southerly wind will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes at high altitude. Medium-sized to large natural avalanches are to be expected. On steep shady slopes individual very large avalanches are possible above approximately 2400 m. In steep avalanche paths these can reach intermediate altitudes and in isolated cases endanger transportation routes situated at relatively high altitudes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. The conditions are critical for ski touring, freeriding and snowshoe hiking outside marked and open pistes.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

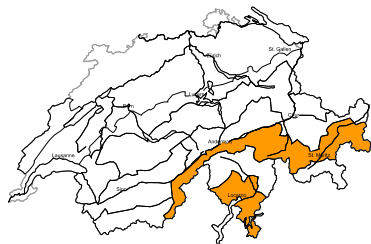
3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

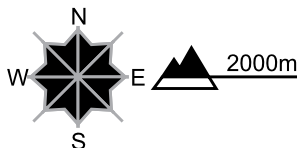
## region B

## Level 3, considerable



## New snow

## Avalanche prone locations

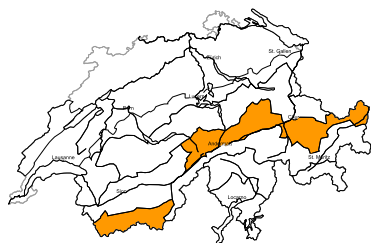


## Danger description

The fresh snow and the wind slabs that are being formed by the southerly wind will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes at high altitude. Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large natural avalanches are possible. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience and restraint.

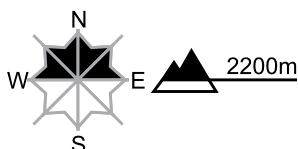
## region C

## Level 3, considerable



## New snow

## Avalanche prone locations

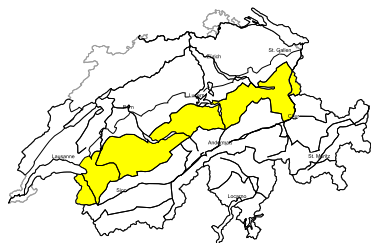


## Danger description

The fresh snow and very particularly the wind slabs formed by the southerly wind can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases in particular on steep shady slopes. The wind slabs are covered with new snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. The avalanches can reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

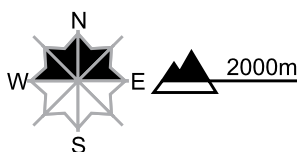
## region D

## Level 2, moderate



## Wind slabs

## Avalanche prone locations



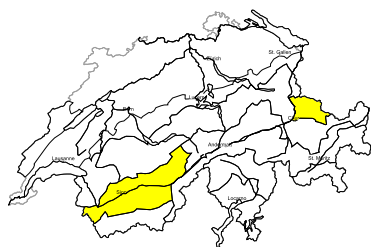
## Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. The storm force foehn wind has transported the loosely bonded old snow. The wind slabs are mostly small but to be assessed critically. They will be covered with new snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed as far as possible. 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.



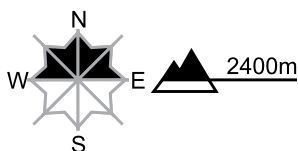
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Thus far only a little snow is lying. The storm force foehn wind has transported the loosely bonded old snow. The wind slabs are mostly small but to be assessed critically. They will be covered with new snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed as far as possible. 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.

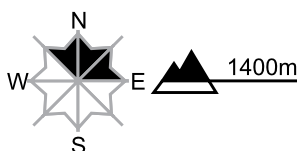
**region F**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**

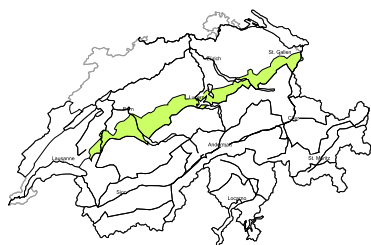


**Danger description**

Thus far only a little snow is lying. Wind slabs are only small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

**region G**

**Level 1, low**



**Wind slabs**

From a snow sport perspective, in most cases insufficient snow is lying. Wind slabs 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 4.12.2020, 17:00

### Snowpack

Prior to the current round of snowfall there was over widespread areas 20 to 50 cm of snow on the ground at 2500 m, less than customary for this juncture of the season. Above that altitude the snow depths tended to increase markedly, particularly in the southern regions. On north-facing slopes in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps above approximately 1500 m, in the remaining regions of Switzerland above approximately 2000 to 2400 m, there was a thin, more-or-less cohesive, area-wide snowpack. This snow cover was impacted by winds in some places, but also contained softened layers of expansively metamorphosed (faceted) crystals. These layers are an unfavourable snow base. On south-facing slopes the snowpack was cohesive and area-wide starting approximately 500 m higher up, and was frequently compact.

In the major areas of precipitation, the amounts of fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrift layers continue to increase. Also further to the north, snowdrift accumulations have been freshly generated, after the foehn storm winds transported the loosely packed old snow. These snowdrift masses are significantly smaller, however.

### Observed weather on Friday, 04.12.2020

In the southern regions more than anywhere else, and in the western Jura, snowfall was registered down to low lying areas. As a result of strong-velocity southerly winds, the precipitation then spread over the Main Alpine Ridge to the north. Further northwards as a result of strong-velocity foehn winds it remained dry until the afternoon, but skies were overcast.

#### Fresh snow

By Friday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh fallen snow were registered:

- southern Simplon region, central sector of the northern flank of the Alps, Bernina region: 30 to 50 cm;
- remaining parts of Main Alpine Ridge from Monte Rosa into Upper Engadine, western Jura: 15 to 30 cm;
- in other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres, or else it remained dry.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in the southern regions and -3 °C in the northern regions.

#### Wind

In the mountains, strong-velocity to storm-strength southerly winds, foehn wind in the valleys of the north.

### Weather forecast through Saturday, 05.12.2020

In the southern regions there will be heavy snowfall during the night. During the daytime the snowfall will slacken off somewhat and focus on southern Grisons most of all.

Also in the northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is expected to prevail over widespread areas, subsequently mostly in Grisons during the daytime. The snowfall will fall down to low lying areas. Only in Sotto Ceneri will the snowfall level ascend during the daytime, to approximately 1200 m.

#### Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:

- Main Alpine Ridge from San Bernardino Pass into Lower Engadine and the southern valleys of Grisons: 40 to 60 cm; in the Bernina region as much as 80 cm;
- Main Alpine Ridge from Monte Rosa region as far as San Bernardino Pass, remaining parts of Ticino, remaining regions of central Grisons and of the Engadine: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, 5 to 15 cm over widespread areas.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, approximately -5 °C.

#### Wind

Winds will be blowing from southerly directions:

- blowing at storm strength in the eastern regions at high altitudes during the night; during the daytime at strong velocity;
- in the other regions, blowing predominantly at moderate strength.

**Outlook** through Monday, 07.12.2020**Sunday**

Skies will be heavily overcast. Particularly during the nocturnal hours, snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. The focal point of the precipitation will lie in the eastern part of the Main Alpine Ridge. The expected amounts of precipitation are still uncertain. During the daytime in the western regions, bright intervals are anticipated.

Avalanche danger levels could increase still further in the eastern part of the Main Alpine Ridge on Saturday night, depending on the amounts of precipitation. In other regions, danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

**Monday**

The approaching weather conditions, and as a result the avalanche forecasts, are still uncertain. In all probability, skies will be predominantly overcast, accompanied by precipitation in the southern and eastern regions in particular. The snowfall will extend down to the valley floor.

Avalanche danger is expected to decrease in the major areas of precipitation.