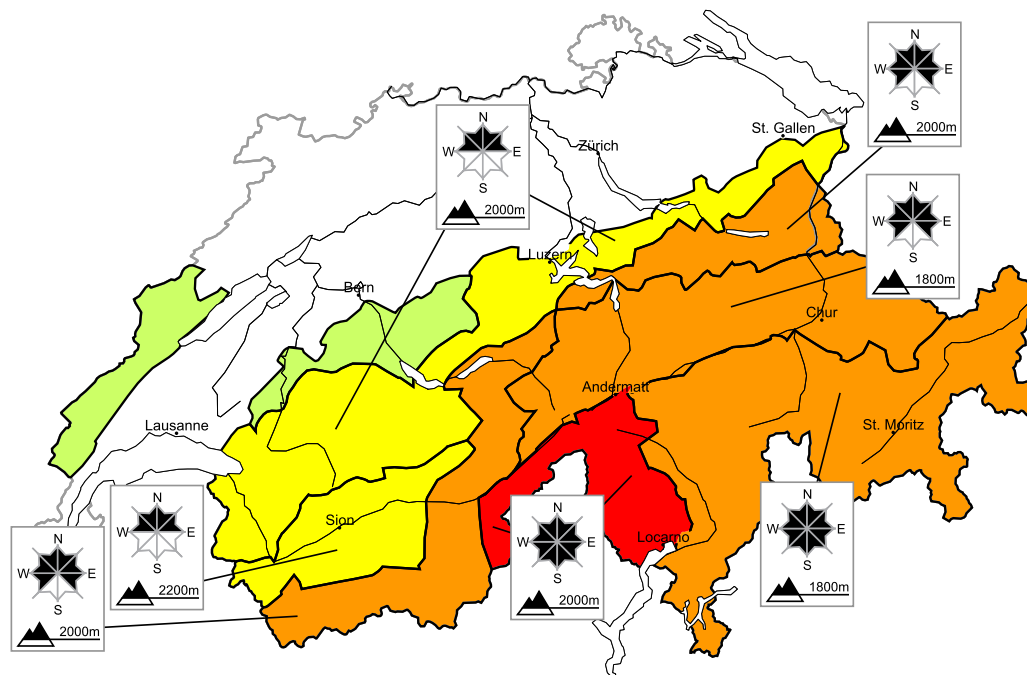


In the south a lot of new snow: High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 7.12.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 7.12.2020, 17:00

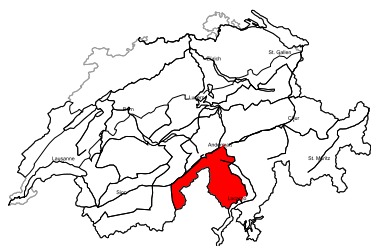
Avalanche danger

updated on 7.12.2020, 08:00



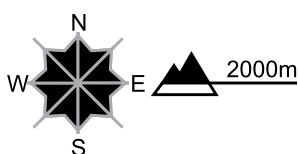
region A

Level 4, high



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The large quantity of fresh snow and the extensive wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. Medium-sized to large natural avalanches are to be expected. On steep shady slopes individual very large avalanches are possible above approximately 2400 m. Exposed transportation routes are endangered in some cases. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. The conditions are critical for ski touring, freeriding and snowshoe hiking outside marked and open pistes.

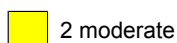
Gliding avalanches

On steep grassy slopes more frequent gliding avalanches are possible, in particular below approximately 2000 m. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

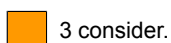
Danger levels



1 low



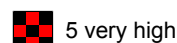
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

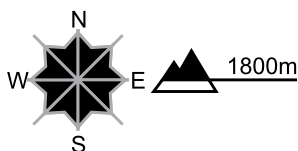
region B

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow of the last few days represent the main danger. Isolated natural avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases reach very large size. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. The conditions are critical for ski touring, freeriding and snowshoe hiking outside marked and open pistes.

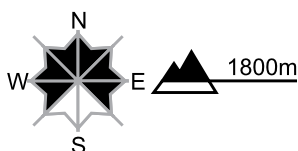
region C

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

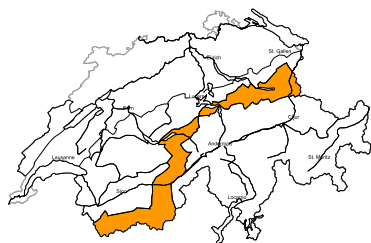
Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack on steep shady slopes. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Avalanches can in some cases release deeper layers of the snowpack and reach large size. Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution. When freeriding, bear in mind that many off-piste routes have barely been used at all this winter to date.

Gliding avalanches

On steep grassy slopes more frequent gliding avalanches are possible, in particular below approximately 2000 m. Slides are to be expected on cut slopes.

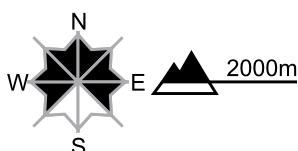
region D

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations

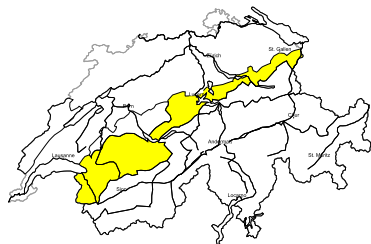


Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack in particular on north facing slopes. They are covered with new snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

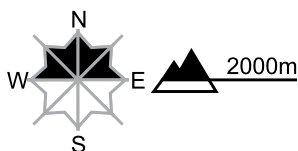
region E

Level 2, moderate



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



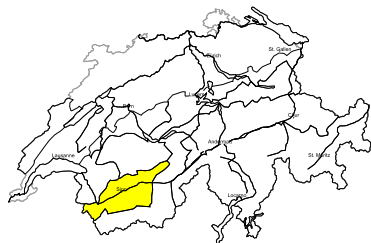
Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. The wind slabs of the last few days are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack in particular on north facing slopes. They are covered with new snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases.

Careful route selection is important. 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.

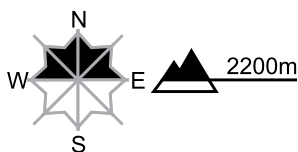
region F

Level 2, moderate



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



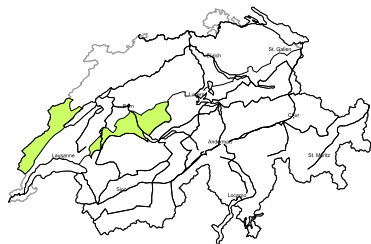
Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. The wind slabs of the last few days are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack in particular on north facing slopes. They are covered with new snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases.

Careful route selection is important. 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 G

Level 1, low



No distinct avalanche problem

From a snow sport perspective, in most cases insufficient snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs 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 6.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

The huge amounts of fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrifts in the major areas of precipitation of the Ticino and Grisons are settling and stabilizing to an increasing extent at intermediate altitudes; at higher altitudes this is proceeding more slowly. Instabilities in the fresh snow and snowdrifts can be expected particularly in the uppermost layers of the snowpack. Especially on steep north-facing slopes the fresh fallen snow has been deposited on top of an unfavourable snow base. Before the current period of precipitation there was in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps above approximately 1500 m, in the remaining regions above approximately 2000 to 2400 m, a thin, more or less cohesive area-wide snowpack. This snowpack was marked by wind impact in some regions, but also contained soft layers of expansively metamorphosed (faceted) crystals. On south-facing slopes the snowpack was cohesive and area-wide as of approximately 500 m higher up, and frequently compact.

Observed weather on Sunday, 06.12.2020

On Saturday night there was snowfall down to below 1000 m over widespread areas, in the Engadine and in southern Grisons the snowfall level ascended temporarily to approximately 1500 m. During the daytime there was additional snowfall especially in the Ticino and in Grisons.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered:

- in the eastern Bernese Oberland, in central Switzerland, on the Main Alpine Ridge from Goms into the Lower Engadine and southwards therefrom, as well as in central Grisons: 40 to 70 cm widespread;
- from Saastal to Wengen, in the remaining parts of the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less than 20 cm.

Thus, since the start of this period of precipitation on Thursday night, the following amounts of fresh snow have been registered:

- on the southern flank of the Alps, in southern Goms, in Urseren, in the Medel and in the Upper Engadine: 100 to 150 cm;
- from northern Goms via Haslital and Gadmertal and over the Urner Alps to central Grisons and into the Lower Engadine: 70 to 100 cm over widespread areas;
- northern bordering regions of the Saastal over the eastern part of Bernese Oberland, the southern parts of central Switzerland and the Glarus Alps as far as northern Grisons: 40 to 70 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 20 to 40 cm over widespread areas.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in the western regions and -1 °C in the furthest eastern regions.

Wind

The southerly winds were blowing at moderate strength during the night, particularly at high altitudes in Grisons and the Ticino, intermittently at storm strength; in other regions winds were blowing at light to moderate strength. During the daytime, winds slackened off and were blowing at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Monday, 07.12.2020

On the southern flank of the Alps and in the Upper Engadine, skies will be overcast, in the other regions variably to heavily overcast, accompanied by bright intervals. During the afternoon in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais, it will become increasingly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Sunday afternoon and Monday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:

- Main Alpine Ridge from Saastal into the Bernina region and southwards therefrom: 20 to 30 cm; from place to place as much as 40 cm;
- remaining parts of northern Upper Valais, central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Grisons: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less than 10 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C.

Wind

Generally moderate winds from southern directions, in some places blowing at strong velocity at high altitudes.

Outlook through Wednesday, 09.12.2020

On both days, skies will be predominantly heavily overcast and a small amount of snowfall is expected to fall down to below 1000 m, on Tuesday in the southern regions in particular, on Wednesday in all regions of Switzerland. Winds on Tuesday will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from southerly directions in some regions at high altitudes, on Wednesday at light to moderate strength from northerly directions. Avalanche danger levels will decrease particularly in the regions of major precipitation, in the other regions no significant change in avalanche danger levels is expected.