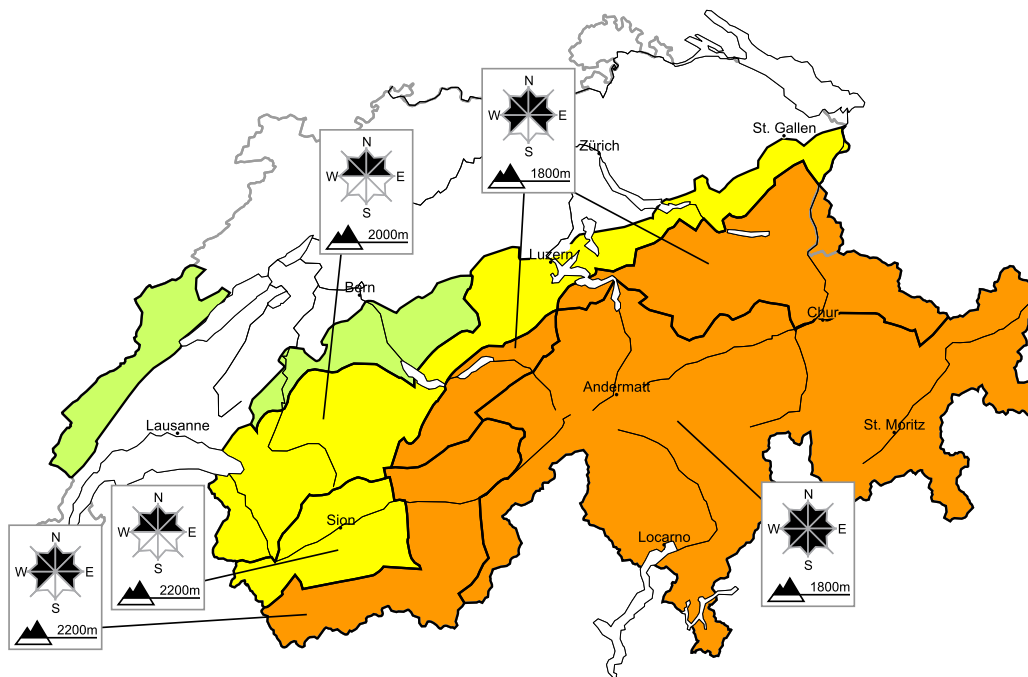


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 7.12.2020, 17:00 / Next update: 8.12.2020, 17:00

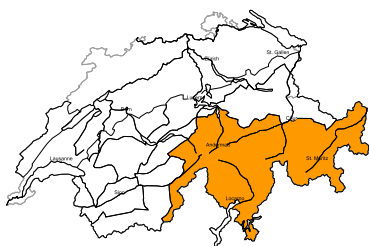
Avalanche danger

updated on 7.12.2020, 17:00



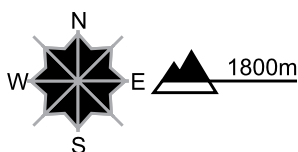
region A

Level 3, considerable



New snow and wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



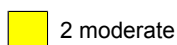
Danger description

A lot of snow fell in the last four days. As a consequence of a strong to storm force southerly wind, extensive wind slabs formed. New snow and wind slabs can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. The avalanches can reach dangerously large size. During the night wind slabs will form in particular in the regions of the north exposed to the foehn wind. These can be released easily in many places. The conditions are precarious for ski touring, freeriding and snowshoe hiking outside marked and open pistes.

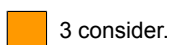
Danger levels



1 low



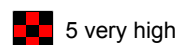
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

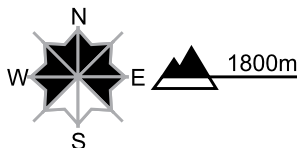
region B

Level 3, considerable



New snow and wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow of the last few days is lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes above the tree line. As a consequence of southerly foehn wind, clearly visible wind slabs will form during the night. These are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size in particular on steep north facing slopes. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. When freeriding, bear in mind that many off-piste routes have barely been used at all this winter to date.

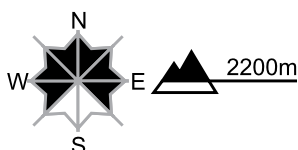
region C

Level 3, considerable



New snow and wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

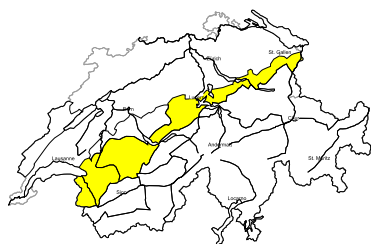


Danger description

The fresh wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant, but they will be small in most cases. Avalanches can to some extent be released in deeper layers also. This applies in particular on wind-protected shady slopes at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

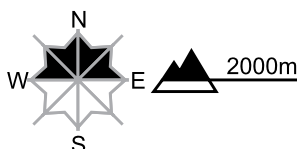
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

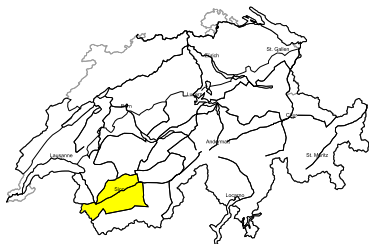


Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. As a consequence of southerly foehn wind, clearly visible wind slabs will form during the night. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. Mostly the avalanches are small.

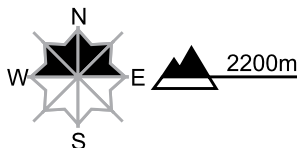
The wind slabs are to be bypassed in steep terrain. Careful route selection is important.

region E **Level 2, moderate**



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. They are in some cases prone to triggering. 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 1, low**



Wind slabs

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 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 7.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

The period of continuous precipitation which has persisted since Friday in the southern regions as well as in some parts of Grisons is coming to a close. In the Upper Engadine, the largest ever measured amounts of fresh fallen snow over a period of 3 days were registered. Instabilities in the fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts are possible particularly in the uppermost layers of the deposited amounts. Freshly generated snowdrift accumulations can easily be triggered. In all regions of Switzerland, but on steep north-facing slopes more than anywhere else, the snow from this period of precipitation was deposited on top of an unfavourably layered snow fundament which contains soft layers of expansively metamorphosed (faceted) crystals. This applies to altitudes above approximately 1500 m in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, above approximately 2000 to 2400 m in the remaining regions of Switzerland. In these layers, avalanches can be triggered by persons, particularly in those regions of the north and the west where there was far less precipitation.

On south-facing slopes, the snowpack prior to the snowfall was cohesive and area-wide starting 500 m higher up, and often compact.

Observed weather on Monday, 07.12.2020

In all regions of Switzerland, skies were heavily overcast for the most part, with some bright intervals. During the afternoon in the western regions, it became increasingly sunny.

Fresh snow

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

- Simplon region, Binntal, northern Ticino, as well as the Main Alpine Ridge from Rheinwald as far as the Bernina and the regions bordering to the north: 40 to 60 cm;
- remaining parts of the central sector of the Main Alpine Ridge, remaining parts of Grisons and remaining parts of the southern flank of the Alps: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the remaining regions, less.

Between Thursday night and Monday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above 1000 m:

- Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon region into the Bernina region, southern flank of the Alps, southern parts of central Grisons: 120 to 160 cm;
- from the eastern Bernese Oberland over the Alps of central Switzerland and central Grisons into the Lower Engadine: 80 to 120 cm;
- Saastal, Aletsch region, Glarus Alps, northern Grisons: 50 to 80 cm;
- Mattertal, remaining parts of the Bernese Alps, Alpstein: 30 to 50 cm;
- in the remaining regions, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -7 °C.

Wind

Predominantly light winds from southerly directions.

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 08.12.2020

Skies will be heavily overcast, accompanied by brief foehn-induced bright intervals in the northeastern regions. Following only light precipitation in the western and central sectors of the Main Alpine Ridge, precipitation will again intensify during the early morning from the south.

Fresh snow

The snowfall level will lie below 1000 m. Between Monday afternoon and Tuesday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:

- Main Alpine Ridge from Saastal as far as the Bernina Pass: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less than 10 cm, or else it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -4 °C.

Wind

- Predominantly moderate-strength southerly winds will be blowing, at stronger velocity in the foehn-exposed regions of the north on Monday night;
- in late afternoon, incrementally shifting to northerly winds.

Outlook through Thursday, 10.12.2020**Wednesday**

Skies will be heavily overcast for the most part and a small amount of intermittent snowfall is expected in all regions of Switzerland. Winds from northerly directions will be blowing predominantly at moderate strength, in the southern regions at strong velocity and down to low lying areas. As a result of the fresh snow, avalanche danger levels will increase in the southern regions more than anywhere else.

Thursday

In the northern regions it will be quite sunny, in the afternoon skies will have heavy cloud cover. In the southern regions skies will frequently be overcast. The winds will be blowing predominantly at light to moderate strength. Avalanche danger levels will decrease slowly.

Current avalanche bulletin

Internet www.slf.ch
App White Risk
(iPhone, Android)

Feedback to avalanche warners

(Avalanche released? Bulletin inaccurate?)
Questionnaire www.slf.ch
E-Mail lwp@slf.ch
Toll-free phone number 0800 800 187

Additional specialized federal departments

MeteoSwiss (weather) / www.meteoswiss.ch
FOEN (flood, forest fire) / www.bafu.admin.ch
SED (Earthquakes) / www.seismo.ethz.ch