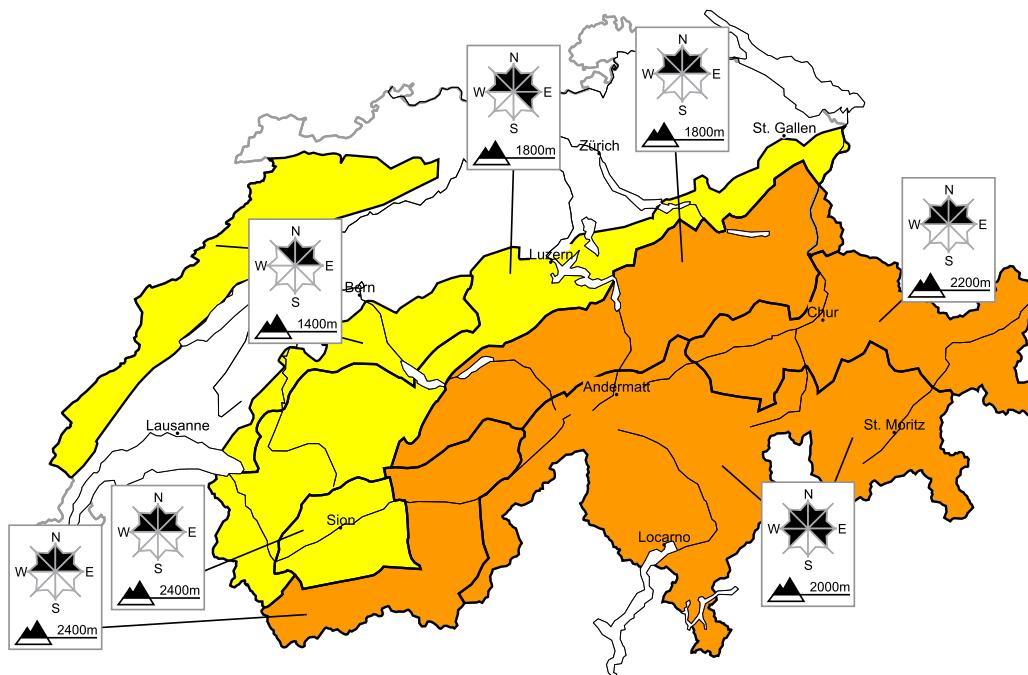


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 11.12.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 11.12.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 11.12.2020, 08:00



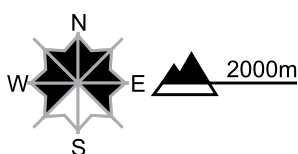
region A

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs are covered with new snow and therefore difficult to recognise. They can in some cases be released easily. Avalanches can reach medium size. In particular adjacent to ridgelines wind slabs will form.

Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

More gliding avalanches are possible, even large ones in isolated cases. This applies in particular on steep south facing slopes below approximately 2200 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

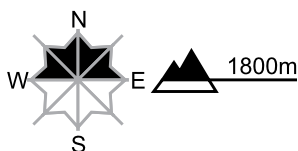
region B

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack on shady slopes. In the regions exposed to the foehn wind further wind slabs will form. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size in particular on steep north facing slopes. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

On steep south facing slopes more gliding avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small. This applies in particular below approximately 2200 m.

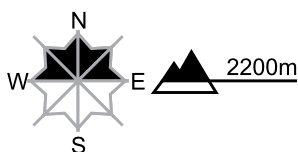
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack on shady slopes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size in particular on steep north facing slopes. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

On steep south facing slopes more gliding avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small. This applies in particular below approximately 2200 m.

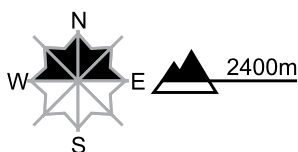
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

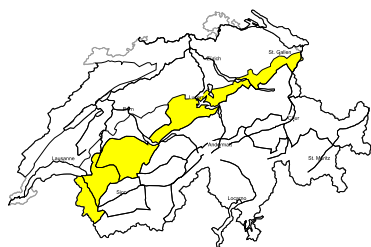


Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant. Mostly they are small. 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 and careful route selection.

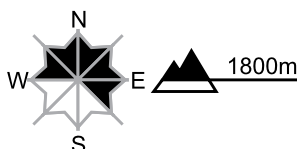
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. As a consequence of southwesterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed. In the course of the day these will increase in size additionally. Somewhat older wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. These are covered with new snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Mostly avalanches are small but can be released in some cases by a single winter sport participant. Careful route selection is important. Fresh wind slabs are to be avoided.

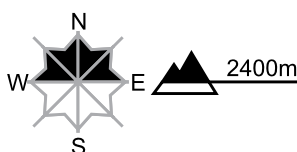
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

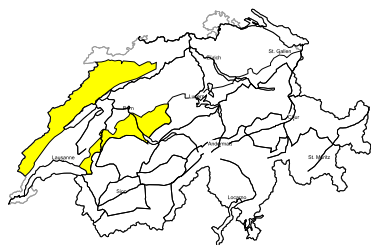


Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. As a consequence of a strengthening southwesterly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. Somewhat older wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs 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.

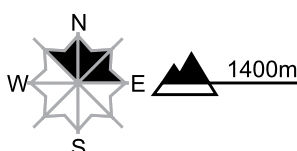
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. As a consequence of a strong to storm force southwesterly wind, small wind slabs formed. The avalanche prone locations are to be found adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of southwesterly winds in western and northern regions, the loosely-packed, near-to-surface layers of snow are being transported. The snowdrift accumulations which are now somewhat older are covered with fresh snow in some places, making them difficult to recognize.

On shady slopes, the layers of snow nearest to the ground are expansively metamorphosed (faceted) in some places. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, this is the case above approximately 1500 m, in the remaining regions of Switzerland it applies to regions above approximate 2000 to 2400 m. Particularly in the regions of the west and the north where there is little snow, but also in general wherever there is little snow, avalanches can be triggered by persons in these more deeply embedded layers. In the regions of the south where there is a great deal of snow, these old snowpack layers are predominantly well covered.

Observed weather on Thursday, 10.12.2020

On Wednesday night the snowfall came to a close. It was predominantly sunny in the mountains. In the southern regions it was only partly sunny and from place to place there was still a small amount of snowfall.

Fresh snow

From place to place, only a few centimetres.

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds were blowing at light to moderate strength from southerly to southwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Friday, 11.12.2020

Skies are expected to be heavily overcast for the most part and during the course of the morning precipitation will set in from the west. The snowfall level will ascend in northern regions to 800 to 1400 m. In the southern regions it will lie at 700 m.

Fresh snow

Between Friday morning and Friday afternoon above 1200 m in the Jura, in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in the Ticino, 5 to 10 cm; in the furthestmost western regions as much as 15 cm.

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds will be southerly to southwesterly:

- in the Jura blowing at strong to storm strength;
- in the Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps, foehn-exposed valleys of the north, blowing at moderate to strong velocity;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, blowing at light to moderate strength.

Outlook through Sunday, 13.12.2020

On Saturday skies will be heavily overcast for the most part and, particularly in the western and the northern regions, snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1000 m. In the southern regions, some bright intervals are anticipated. On Sunday, skies will be overcast to start with, as the precipitation slackens off in the western and northern regions. In the southern regions it is expected to be predominantly sunny.

Avalanche danger levels will increase on Saturday, particularly in the western and the northern regions, subsequently not change significantly on Sunday. In the southern regions, avalanche danger levels will decrease.