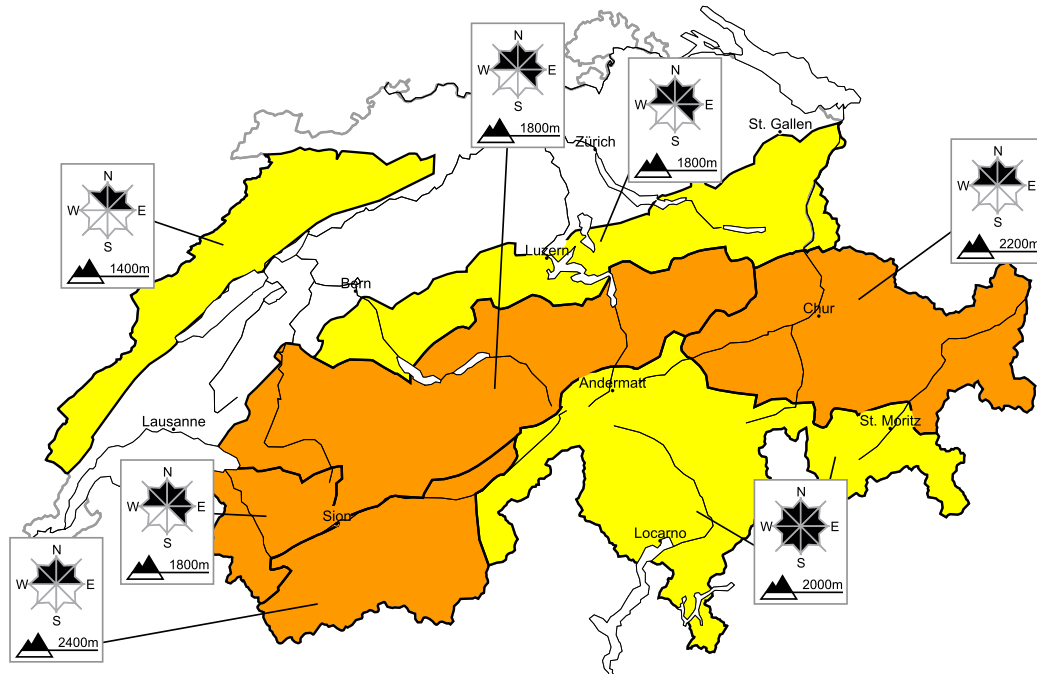


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 13.12.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 13.12.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 13.12.2020, 08:00



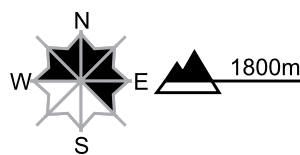
region A

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



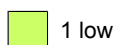
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering in particular on shady slopes. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Avalanches can be released easily. They can in some cases penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size. Whumpung sounds can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

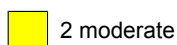
Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides are to be expected as the day progresses.

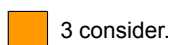
Danger levels



1 low



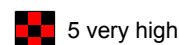
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

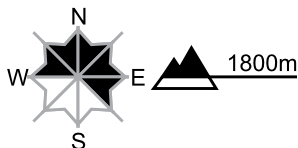
region B

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

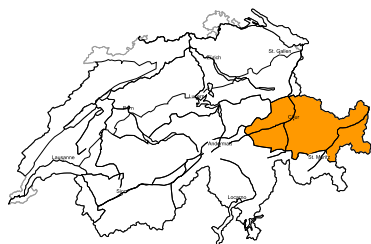
The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers and reach medium size on little used north facing 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 gliding avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small. This applies in particular below approximately 2200 m.

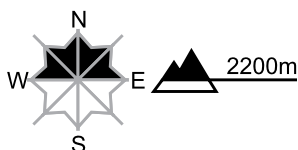
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snowpack will be unfavourable especially on steep shady slopes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can be triggered in deep layers and reach large size in isolated cases in particular on steep north facing slopes. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. In addition the wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering in some cases still. 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.

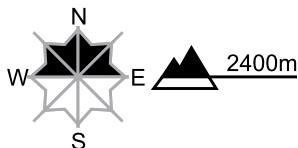
region D

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of last week are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can be triggered in deep layers and reach medium size in particular on steep north facing slopes. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised in particular on wind-protected shady slopes at elevated altitudes.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

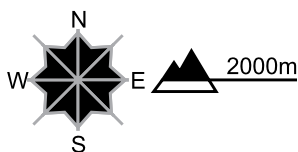
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs can still be released in some cases. Avalanches can in some cases reach medium size. Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can also be released in deep layers reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on steep, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes above approximately 2400 m.

Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

More small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on steep south facing slopes below approximately 2200 m.

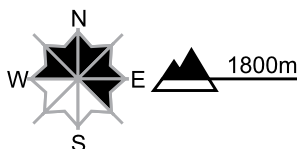
region F

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



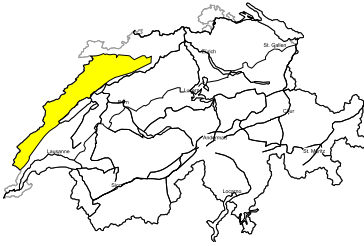
Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. Mostly avalanches are small but can be released in some cases by a single winter sport participant.

Careful route selection is important.

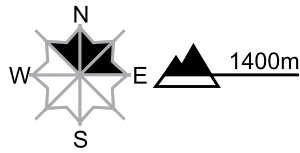
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



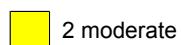
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes storm force southwesterly wind, wind slabs formed in gullies and bowls and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

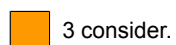
Danger levels



1 low



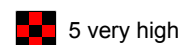
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

Snowpack and weather

updated on 12.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of westerly winds, the fresh fallen snow was transported in the western regions. The somewhat older snowdrift accumulations are now covered by fresh snow in some places and thus, difficult to recognize.

On shady slopes, layers of snow close to the surface are expansively metamorphosed (faceted) in 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 above approximately 2000 to 2400 m. Particularly in the regions of the west and the north where there is little snow, but also in the other regions at places where there is little snow, avalanches can be triggered by persons and unleash fractures down to these more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack. In the areas of the south where there has been a great deal of snow, the weak layers in the old snowpack are generally well covered.

Observed weather on Saturday, 12.12.2020

In the western and the northern regions, skies were heavily overcast for the most part, accompanied by precipitation in the west. During the course of the day, the light snowfall spread out, ultimately extending towards the eastern regions. The snowfall level lay at 800 m. In Grisons and the Ticino it was partly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Friday midday and Saturday afternoon, above approximately 1200 m:

- western Jura region, furthestmost western part of Lower Valais, Vaud Alps, Fribourg Alps, Gantrisch region: 10 to 20 cm; in the Chablais and the Trient regions, 30 cm;
- eastern Jura region, remaining regions in western and northern Lower Valais, western Bernese Alps: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres, or else it remained dry.

Temperature

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

Wind

On Friday night in the western regions and the Gotthard region, winds were initially blowing at moderate to strong velocity, in the other regions at light to moderate strength, from westerly to southwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 13.12.2020

In the northern regions, skies on Saturday night will be heavily overcast, and there will be snowfall above approximately 800 m. In the course of the day on Sunday it will become increasingly sunny from the west. In the eastern regions the snowfall will come to an end during the course of the morning, and in the afternoon it will turn partly sunny. In the Valais and in the southern regions it will be predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday evening and Sunday midday, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:

- northern flank of the Alps from the Chablais as far as the Glarus Alps: 10 to 20 cm, from place to place as much as 30 cm;
- Jura region, northern flank of the Alps east of the Glarus Alps, Lower Valais, northern Upper Valais, northern Grisons: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres; in the southern regions it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in the northern regions and -2 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- On Saturday night in the Jura region, as well as on the Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon region into Val Bregaglia, winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northwesterly directions; in the other regions blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly to northwesterly directions;
- during the daytime blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly to southwesterly directions.

Outlook through Tuesday, 15.12.2020

On Monday it will be predominantly sunny in the mountains, accompanied by cloudbanks in the southern regions more than anywhere else. The zero-degree level will ascend to approximately 3000 m. On Tuesday it will be sunny to start with. During the course of the day, cloud cover will move in from the west and a small amount of precipitation is possible. Intermittently a moderate to strong-velocity southwesterly wind will be blowing. In the western and the northern regions, small-sized snowdrift accumulations will be generated. In the other regions of Switzerland the danger of dry-snow avalanches will diminish, although only incrementally on north-facing slopes as a result of the weak-layered old snow. As a result of higher temperatures and solar radiation, moist snowslides and ongoing gliding avalanches can be expected on sunny slopes.