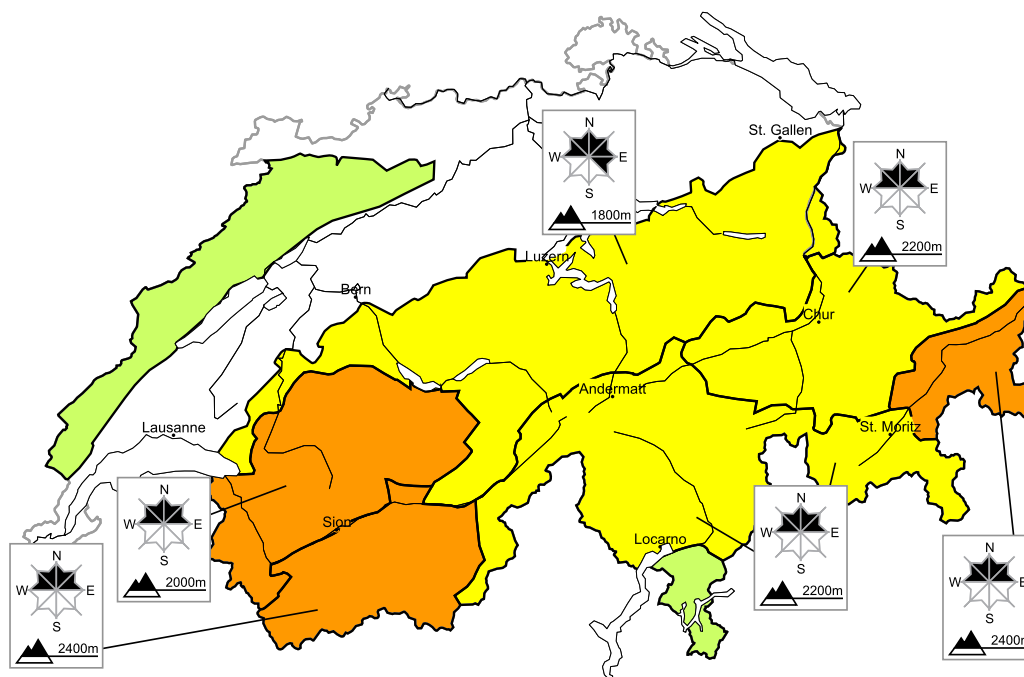


Weakly bonded old snow: Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 16.12.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 16.12.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 16.12.2020, 08:00



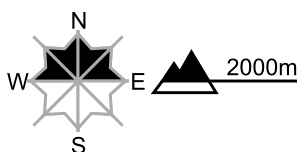
region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations

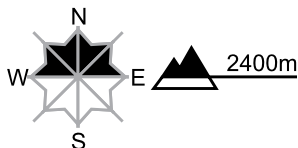


Danger description

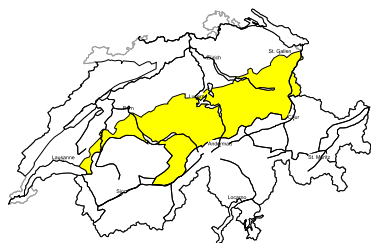
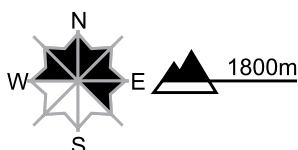
The new snow of the weekend is lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack especially on shady slopes. Avalanches can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Fresh wind slabs are rather small but can be released easily. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.

Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes mostly small gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

region B**Level 3, considerable****Old snow****Avalanche prone locations****Danger description**

The new snow and wind slabs of last week are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack especially on shady slopes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can be triggered in deep layers and reach dangerously large 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. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region C**Level 2, moderate****Old snow, wind slabs****Avalanche prone locations****Danger description**

The snowpack will be unfavourable on shady slopes. Avalanches can be triggered in deep layers and reach medium size in particular on steep north facing slopes. Isolated whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Defensive route selection is important. Fresh wind slabs are mostly small but can be released easily. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.

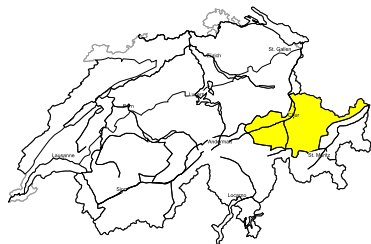
Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes more small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.



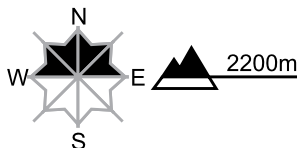
region D

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snowpack will be unfavourable on shady slopes. Avalanches can be triggered in deep layers and reach large size in isolated cases in particular on steep north facing slopes. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. Defensive route selection is important.

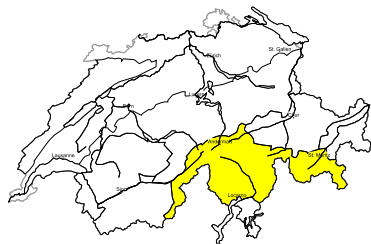
Fresh wind slabs are mostly small but can be released easily. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.

Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes more small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

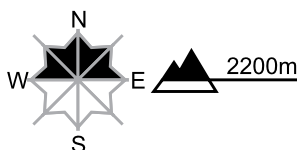
region E

Level 2, moderate



Dry avalanches: no distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In very isolated cases avalanches can be released in deep layers and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow on very steep shady slopes. The avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Defensive route selection is recommended.

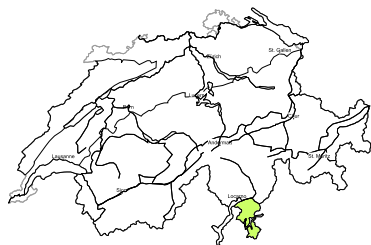
Fresh wind slabs are mostly small but can be released easily. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.

Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep sunny slopes more small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

region F

Level 1, low



Dry avalanches: no distinct avalanche problem

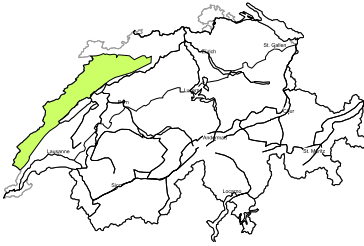
Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Gliding avalanches

On very steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region G

Level 1, low

**Wet avalanches**

Only a little snow is now lying. On extreme slopes individual small wet and gliding avalanches are possible. Even a snow slide can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 15.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

Layers of fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts from last week have been deposited on top of an unfavourably structured old snowpack, particularly on shady slopes, and continue to be prone to triggering in some places. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps this applies to altitudes above approximately 1800 m, in the remaining regions of Switzerland above approximately 2000 to 2400 m. Particularly in the regions of the west and the north, however also in other regions where the snow is relatively shallow, avalanches can be triggered by persons and fracture down to these more deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover. In the regions of the south where there is a great deal of snow, these weakened layers are generally well covered.

Freshly generated, mostly small-sized snowdrift accumulations can be triggered also in the other aspects and at other altitudes in some places.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 15.12.2020

Skies were heavily overcast, except for a few bright spells in the furthestmost eastern regions. In the western regions there was a small amount of precipitation from region to region.

Fresh snow

- In the furthestmost western regions above 2000 m, a few snowflakes fell;
- in the Jura region there was about 10 mm of rainfall registered.

Temperature

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

Wind

- Winds in the Jura and Gotthard regions were blowing at strong velocity in some places, in the other regions of Switzerland at moderate strength, from southerly to southwesterly directions;
- in the northern regions there was a tendency towards foehn wind.

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 16.12.2020

During the night a small amount of snowfall is expected from region to region. The snowfall level will lie at approximately 1800 m in the northern regions and 1400 m in the southern regions. During the morning, cloudbanks in the eastern regions will disperse and it will become rather sunny, as it will be already previously in the west. In the southern regions and the Engadine, skies will be overcast accompanied by extended bright intervals during the afternoon.

Fresh snow

- Just a few centimetres from region to region;
- in the Jura region, 10 to 15 mm of rain is expected.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +3 °C in the northern regions and -2 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds will be southwesterly, blowing at moderate strength;
- in the northern regions, intermittent foehn influence.

Outlook through Friday, 18.12.2020

As a result of light to moderate-strength southwesterly winds, it will be quite sunny in the mountains. Avalanche danger levels are expected to decrease, however on north-facing slopes only incrementally as a result of the weakened old snow.