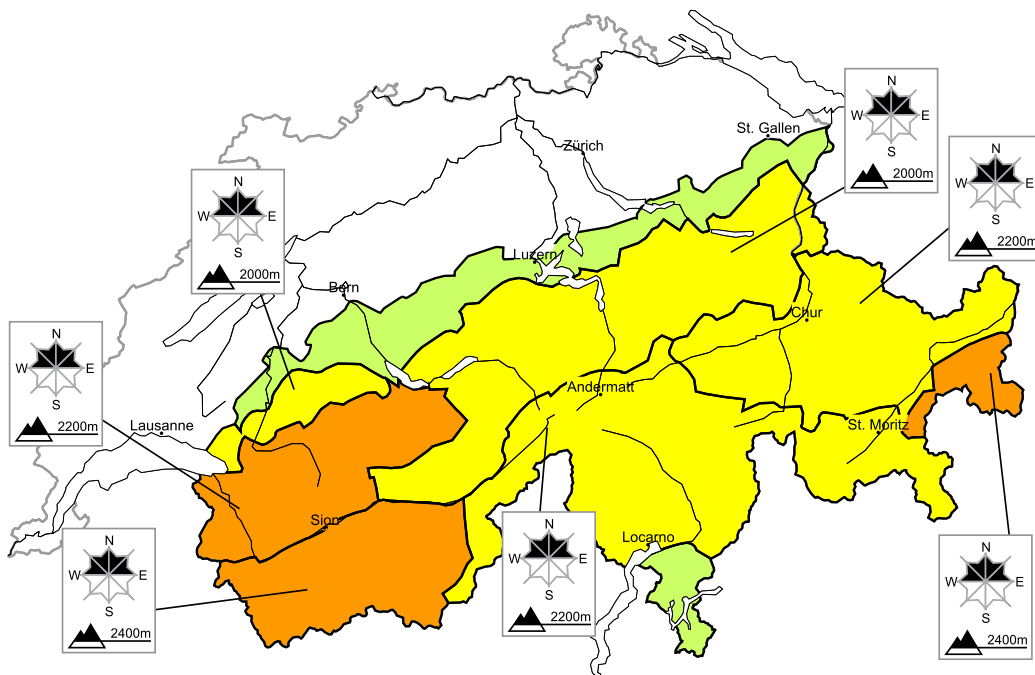


Weakly bonded old snow: Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 17.12.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 17.12.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 17.12.2020, 08:00

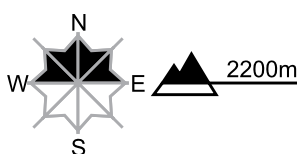


region A Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



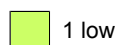
Danger description

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. Whumpung sounds can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

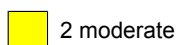
Gliding avalanches

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

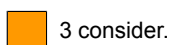
Danger levels



1 low



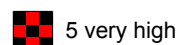
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

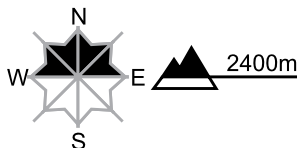
region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



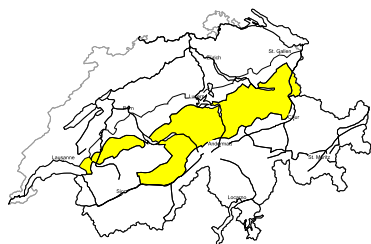
Danger description

The snowpack will be unfavourable 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.

Somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

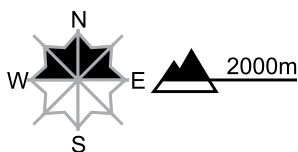
region C

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 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.

Somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

Gliding avalanches

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

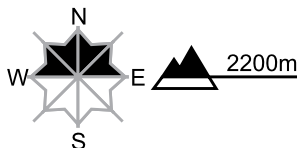
region D

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 rare but are barely recognisable. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. Defensive route selection is important.

Somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

Gliding avalanches

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

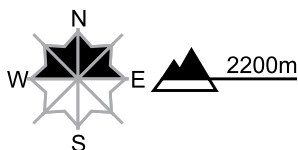
region E

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.

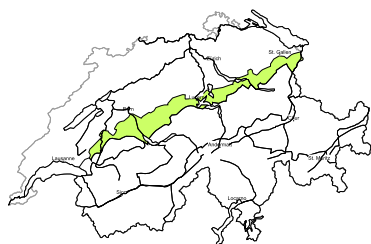
Somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

Gliding avalanches

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

region F

Level 1, low

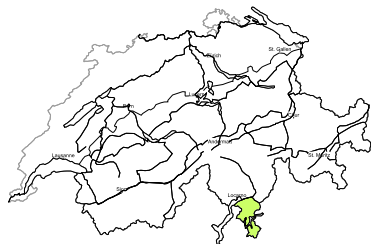


Wet avalanches

The snowpack will be moist. On very steep slopes wet and gliding avalanches are possible. Even a small avalanche can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region G

Level 1, low

**Dry avalanches: no distinct avalanche problem**

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular on extreme shady slopes at elevated altitudes. 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.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

The snow from last week was deposited on top of an unfavourably structured old snow cover, particularly on shady slopes, and continues to be prone to triggering in 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 where there is little snow, however also in the other regions of Switzerland where there is little snow, avalanches can be triggered by persons which fracture down to these more deeply embedded layers of the old snowpack. In the regions of the south where there is a great deal of snow, the weak layers of the old snowpack are generally well covered.

More freshly generated, predominantly small-sized snowdrift accumulations can in isolated cases also be triggered in other aspects and at other altitudes. As a result of higher temperatures, the snow at intermediate altitudes has become moist.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 16.12.2020

During the night in the Jura region there was rainfall registered, above approximately 1500 m there was also a small amount of fresh snow registered from place to place in the mountains. After the clouds in the eastern regions swiftly dispersed during the morning hours, it became sunny over widespread areas. Only in the southern region did skies remain heavily overcast until afternoon.

Fresh snow

- A few snowflakes from place to place,
- in the Jura region: 5 to 10 mm of rainfall.

Temperature

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

Wind

- Winds were blowing at moderate strength from southerly to southwesterly directions;
- in the northern regions, tendency towards foehn-wind impact.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 17.12.2020

It will be predominantly sunny. In the afternoon in the furthest western regions and in the Prealps, cloud cover will move in.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +1 °C.

Wind

Winds will be light to moderate from west to southwest.

Outlook through Saturday, 19.12.2020

On Friday it will be predominantly sunny in the mountains as a result of moderate-strength westerly winds. On Saturday, winds will shift again to southerly to southwesterly, so that once again foehn wind tendencies are expected to arise. In the northern regions it will be predominantly sunny to start with, in the afternoon clouds are expected to move in from the west. In the southern regions skies will again become overcast. Avalanche danger levels will decrease, on north-facing slopes where there is still weakened old snow, only incrementally however.