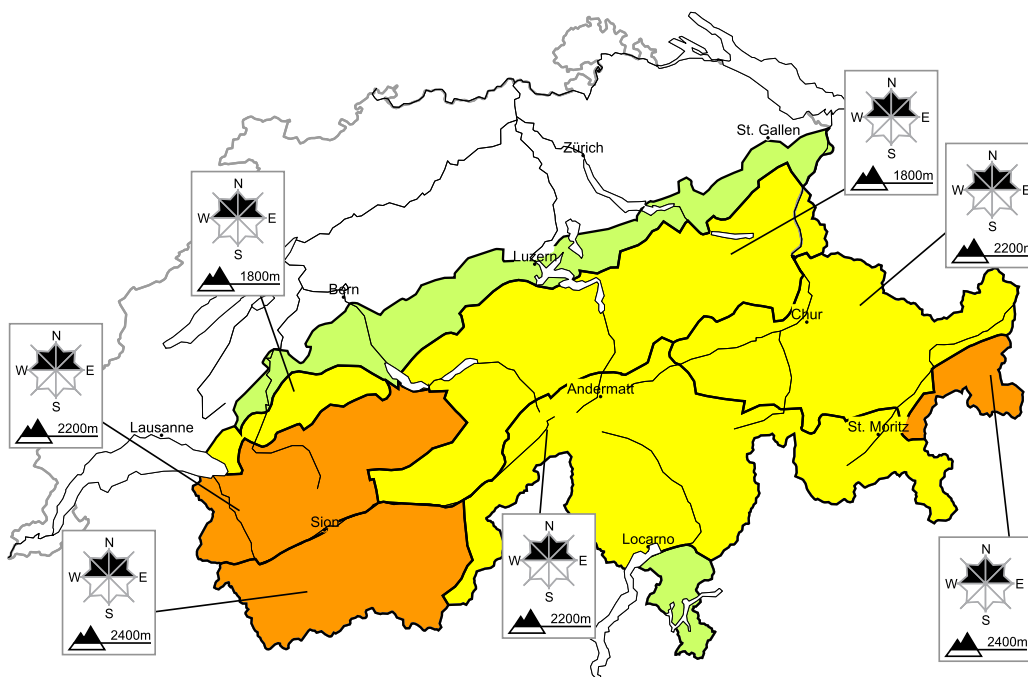


Weakly bonded old snow: Caution is to be exercised on steep shady slopes

Edition: 19.12.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 19.12.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 19.12.2020, 08:00



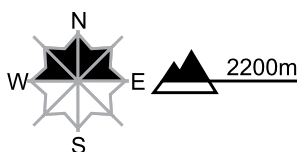
region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised in particular on wind-protected shady slopes. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger.

As a consequence of southwesterly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

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

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

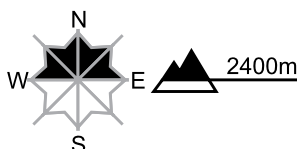
region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

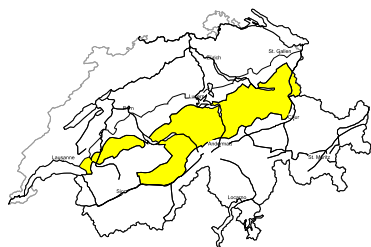
Distinct weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised in particular on wind-protected shady slopes at elevated altitudes. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger.

As a consequence of southwesterly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

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

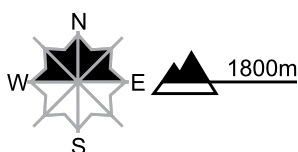
region C

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are difficult to recognise. Isolated whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger.

As a consequence of southerly foehn wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Defensive route selection is required.

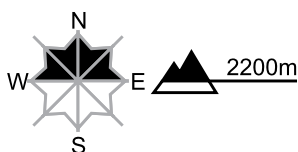
region D

Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

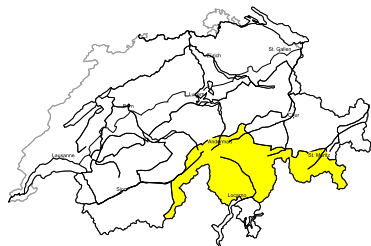
Distinct weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can in some cases be released by people and reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are rare but are barely recognisable. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Isolated whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger.

As a consequence of southwesterly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Defensive route selection is important.

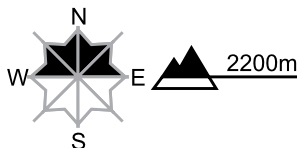
region E

Level 2, moderate



Dry avalanches: no distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The avalanche conditions are generally favourable. Avalanches can be released in deep layers, mostly by large additional loads in isolated cases. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on very steep, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes.

As a consequence of southwesterly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Careful route selection is recommended.

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 18.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

The snow cover on shady slopes is unfavourably structured over widespread areas. The snow from the early part of December blankets weakly consolidated layers of old snow in those zones. Avalanches can be triggered by persons and fracture down to more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack. 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.

In the regions of the southern flank of the Alps where snowfall has been heaviest, the weakly structured layers of old snow are generally well covered by the snow from early December, making them unlikely to trigger.

As a result of higher temperatures, the snow at intermediate altitudes has become moist.

Observed weather on Friday, 18.12.2020

It was predominantly sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds were blowing predominantly at light strength from southerly directions.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 19.12.2020

Nocturnal skies on Friday night will be overcast in the southern regions, in the other regions predominantly clear.

During the daytime on Saturday, skies will be overcast in the southern regions. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, cloud cover will move in from the west over the course of the day. In the eastern regions it will remain quite sunny until evening.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

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

Wind

Winds will be southwesterly,

- blowing predominantly at moderate strength in the northern regions and at high altitudes in general;
- intensifying to strong velocity during the afternoon in the western regions.

Outlook through Monday, 21.12.2020

On Sunday, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated, initially in the southern regions, subsequently in the western regions. The snowfall level is expected to descend from 1700 down to 1300 m in the western regions, in the southern regions it will lie at 1300 m. In the eastern regions skies will be bright, generated by foehn influence. At high altitudes a strong southwesterly wind will be blowing intermittently.

On Sunday night a small amount of precipitation is anticipated over widespread areas. During the daytime on Monday in the northern regions, it will be quite sunny to start with. Then during the course of the day, cloud cover will move in from the west. In the southern regions it will be quite sunny all day long.

Avalanche danger levels are expected to increase slightly in the southern regions as a result of snowfall. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly