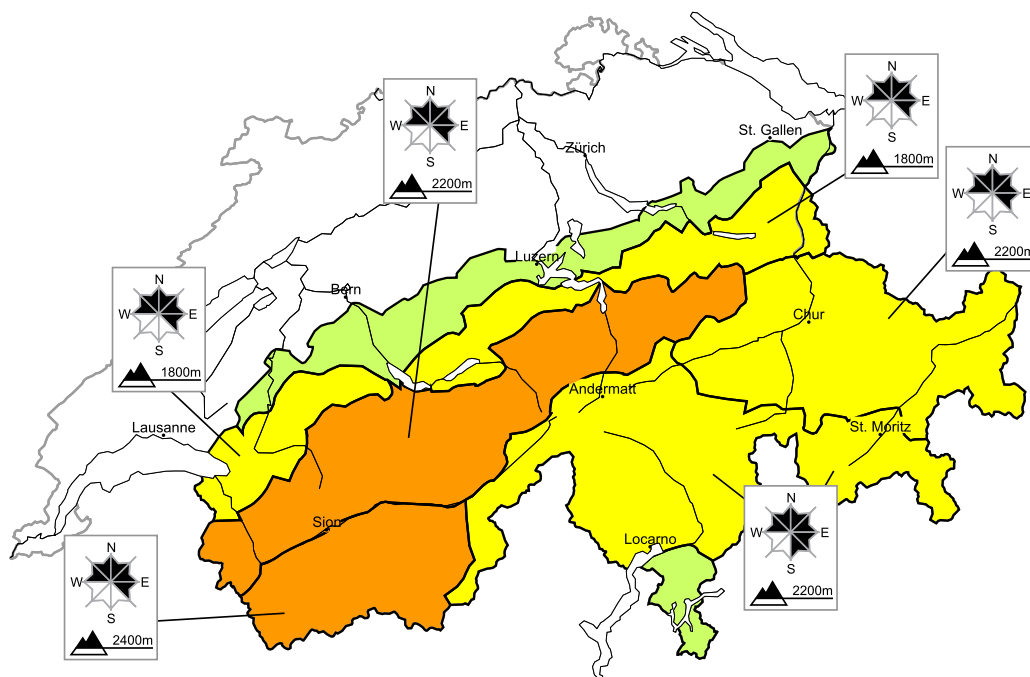


# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Wind slabs and weakly bonded old snow require caution

Edition: 22.12.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 22.12.2020, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 22.12.2020, 08:00



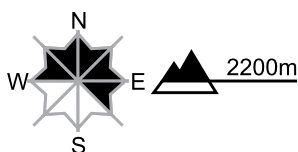
### region A

### Level 3, considerable



#### Wind slabs, old snow

##### Avalanche prone locations



##### Danger description

As a consequence of a strong westerly wind, easily released wind slabs formed. Additionally avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers and reach large size. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

#### Gliding avalanches

Small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

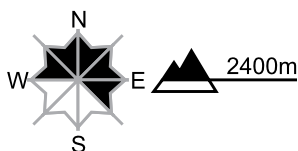
**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Old snow, wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

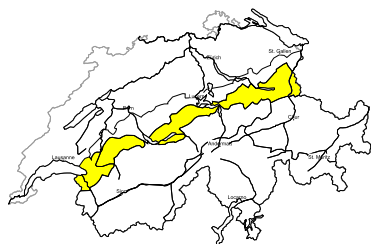
Distinct weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are difficult to recognise. Isolated whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. As a consequence of a moderate to strong westerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed as well. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

**Gliding avalanches**

Small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

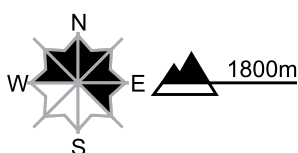
**region C**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

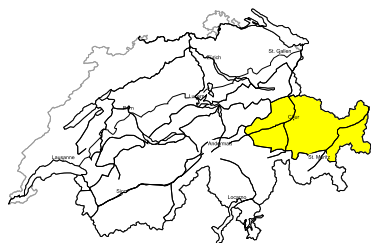
As a consequence of a strong westerly wind, easily released wind slabs formed. Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can also be released in deep layers and reach quite a large size. This applies especially on shady slopes above approximately 2000 m. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

**Gliding avalanches**

Small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

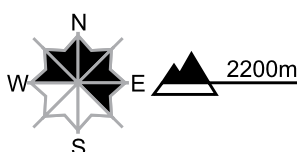
**region D**

**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 places 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. Fresh wind slabs are mostly rather small but prone to triggering. Defensive route selection is important.

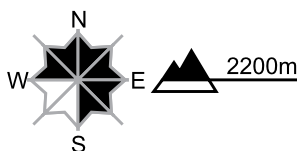
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of a strong northwesterly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. These are prone to triggering.

Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in deeper layers, this applies in particular in case of a large load. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on very steep, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes.

Careful route selection is recommended. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

**region F**

**Level 1, low**

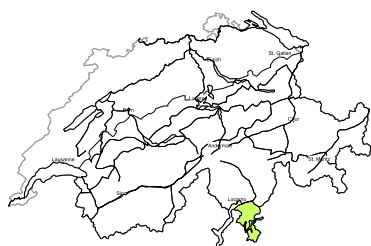


**Gliding avalanches**

Individual small gliding avalanches are possible. Even a small avalanche can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

**region G**

**Level 1, low**



**Gliding avalanches**

As a consequence of warming individual wet and gliding avalanches are possible, even medium-sized ones. 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.



## Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.12.2020, 17:00

### Snowpack

The moderate to strong wind has given rise to snow drift accumulations. In many places they are lying on an unfavourable old snowpack and can be released easily.

In addition, weakly bonded layers of old snow in which avalanches can be released exist deeper in the snowpack over a wide area. These conditions are to be found on slopes above approximately 1800 m in central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, and above approximately 2000 to 2400 m in the other regions. In the regions on the southern flank of the Alps where a lot of snow has fallen, the bonding of the snowpack is more favourable. Here, avalanches can now be released in deep layers of the snowpack only in very isolated cases.

At 2000 m, 50 to 80 cm of snow is lying over a wide area on the main Alpine ridge from the Simplon region into Val Müstair and to the south. In the other regions the snow depth is only 20 to 50 cm. Over a wide area the snow cover is shallower than usual for this time of year. Snow depths are above average only in the south. The snow line is between 800 and 1000 m on north facing slopes, and between 1200 and 1600 m on south facing slopes.

### Observed weather on Monday, 21.12.2020

A little precipitation fell on Sunday evening. The night was mostly clear, during the day the weather was cloudy.

#### Fresh snow

-

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about +2 °C in the west and 0 °C in the south and east

#### Wind

Light to moderate, becoming increasingly strong from the west in the afternoon, in particular in the west

### Weather forecast through Tuesday, 22.12.2020

During the night in the north, precipitation will fall at first. The snowfall level will be between 2000 and 2500 m on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais, and approximately 2000 m in Grisons. The second half of the night will be partly clear. During the day it will be quite sunny despite some cloud.

#### Fresh snow

- Northern Alpine ridge from the eastern Bernese Oberland into the Glarus Alps: 5 to 15 cm, but up to 20 cm in some localities
- Elsewhere: a few centimetres, remaining dry in the far south

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between +4 °C in the north and +6 °C in the south

#### Wind

Mostly strong from the west to northwest

### Outlook through Thursday, 24.12.2020

#### Wednesday

It will be partly sunny and very mild. The zero degree level will be approximately 3000 m. The wind will remain occasionally strong from the west to southwest. The avalanche danger will decrease only slowly.

#### Thursday

There will be precipitation over a wide area, chiefly in the north and west. The temperature will fall significantly. The wind will be strong to storm force from the west.

As a consequence of fresh snow and stormy weather, the avalanche danger will increase in some regions.