Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 26 December 2020

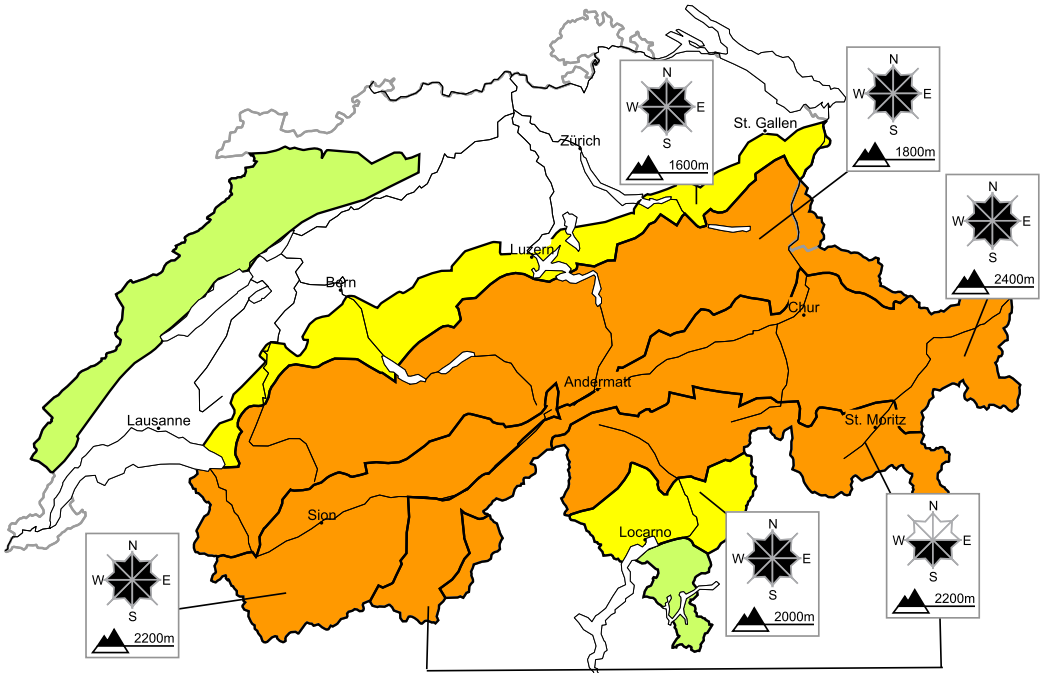
26.12.2020, 07:52

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

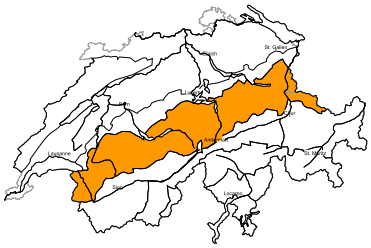
Edition: 26.12.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 26.12.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 26.12.2020, 08:00

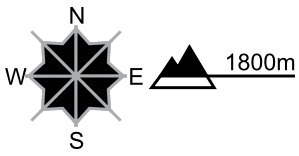


region A | **Level 3, considerable**



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs can be released very easily. Isolated natural avalanches are possible. In some places avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2000 m.
Avalanches can reach large size.
Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

Danger levels 1 low | 2 moderate | 3 consider. | 4 high | 5 very high

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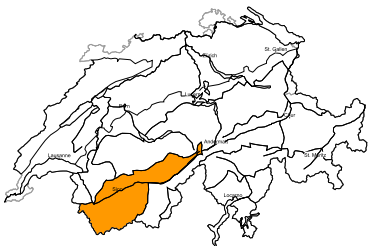
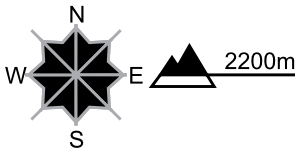
region B — Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

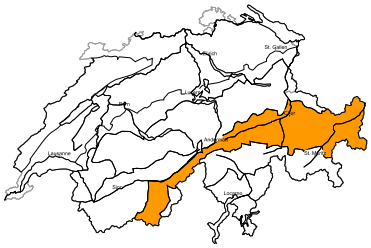
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

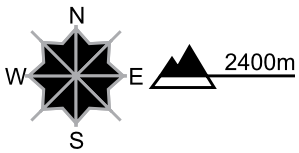
The new snow and wind slabs of the last three days can be released by a single winter sport participant. Additionally in some places avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
Avalanches can reach large size.
Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region C — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



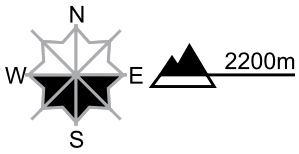
Danger description

Especially at elevated altitudes wind slabs formed. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on very steep north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m.
Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region D — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

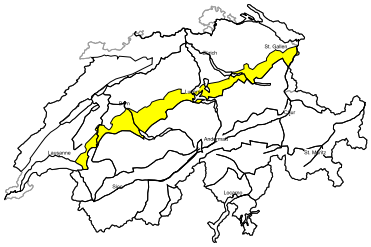
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

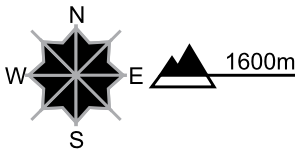
As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, wind slabs formed especially at high altitude. These can be released by people. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Wind slabs are to be bypassed in steep terrain.

region E — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last three days can be released by a single winter sport participant, especially on very steep slopes, as well as adjacent to ridgelines. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

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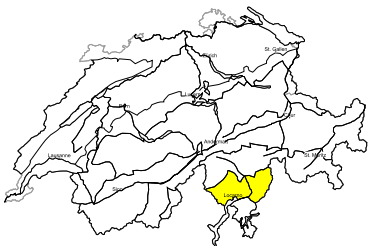
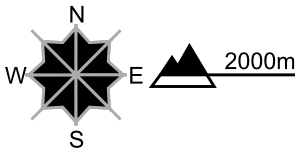
region F — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

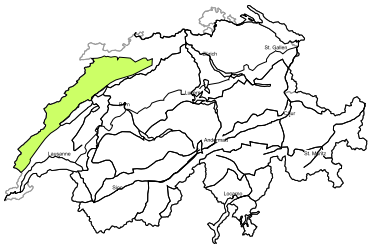
As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, small wind slabs formed especially at high altitude. These can in some places be released by people. Wind slabs are to be bypassed in very steep terrain.

region G — Level 1, low

No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region H — Level 1, low



Wind slabs

Thus far only a little snow is lying.
In some localities small wind slabs formed. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep north and east facing slopes above approximately 1400 m.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 25.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of fresh fallen snow and strong velocity winds, initially blowing from westerly directions, later from northerly directions, snowdrift accumulations have been generated in widespread areas. Both fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts are still easily triggered. In addition, on shady slopes above approximately 2000 to 2400 m there are weakly consolidated layers evident inside the old snowpack. Particularly on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais, avalanches can fracture in these layers. In the regions along the southern flank of the Alps where snowfall has been heaviest, the snowpack layering is more favourable. Fractures deeper down inside the snowpack are unlikely.

Observed weather on Friday, 25.12.2020

Skies were heavily overcast. Snowfall was registered over widespread areas. The snowfall level lay in low lying areas.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above 1500 m:
- central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps: 20 to 40 cm;
- western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais: 15 to 30 cm;
- northern and central Grisons, Jura region: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland: only a few centimetres.

Overall between Wednesday midday and Friday afternoon above 2000 m:
- northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm; up to 50 cm from place to place;
- Upper Valais not including Simplon region, northern and central Grisons, Lower Engadine, Jura region: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less than 10 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in the northern regions, -9 °C; and in the southern regions, -6 °C.

Wind
- On the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in the Jura region, winds during the night were blowing still at moderate to strong velocity from westerly directions;
- during the daytime on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northerly to northeasterly directions;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, blowing at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 26.12.2020

During the night on the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, a small amount of additional snowfall is still anticipated. The snowfall level will lie in low lying areas. During the daytime in the inneralpine and the southern regions, it will be quite sunny. In the northern regions, cloud cover will disperse during the course of the daytime.

Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above 1000 m:
- northern flank of the Alps from the Bernese Alps into Liechtenstein: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; or else, it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in the northern regions, -10 °C; and in the southern regions, -5 °C.

Wind

Winds on the southern flank of the Alps and in the high alpine regions will be blowing at strong velocity from northerly directions, in the other regions blowing at light to moderate strength from northeasterly directions.

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Outlook through Monday, 28.12.2020

Sunday

In the northern and eastern regions, skies will be bright as a result of foehn influence, in the other regions skies will become increasingly overcast. During the course of the day, southerly foehn winds will be blowing, subsequently intensifying to strong-to-storm strength. It is expected to remain dry.
Particularly in the foehn-exposed regions along the northern flank of the Alps, wide-ranging and extremely prone-to-triggering snowdrift accumulations are expected to form. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Monday

In the southern and the western regions, snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. In the northeastern regions, skies will be bright as a result of foehn influence, and it will remain dry.
Avalanche danger levels are expected to increase in the western and the southern regions, in the other regions no significant change is expected.