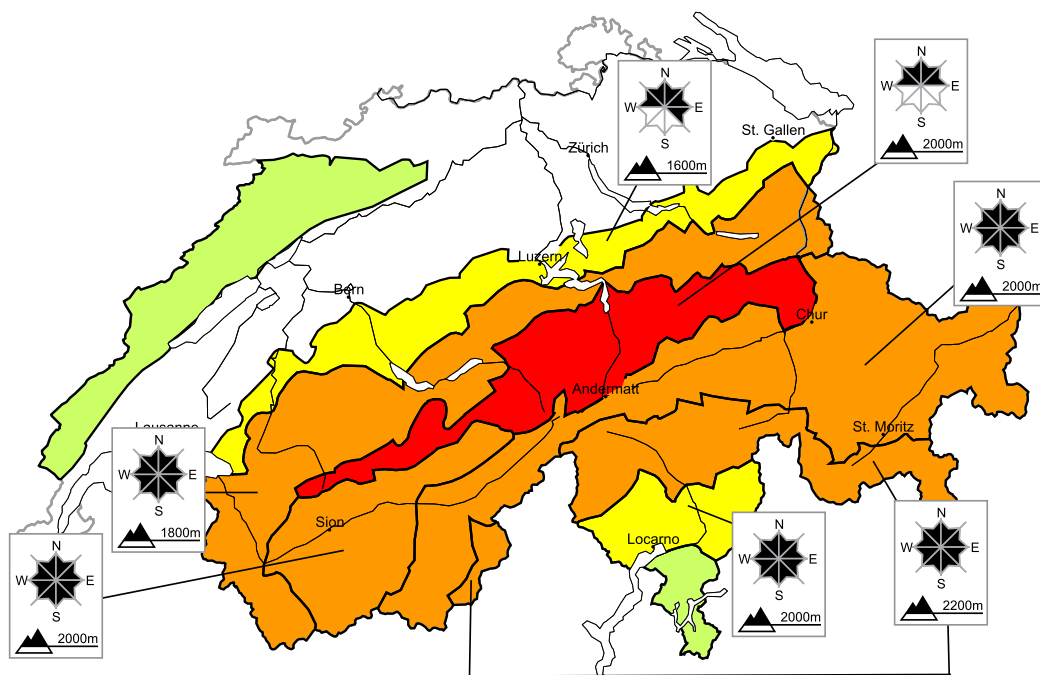


In the afternoon a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 27.12.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 27.12.2020, 17:00

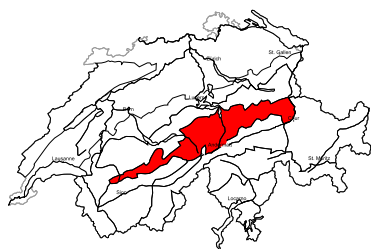
Avalanche danger

updated on 27.12.2020, 08:00



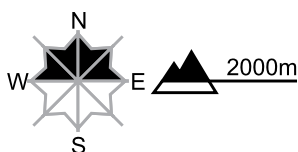
region A

Level 4, high



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Danger level 4 (high) will be reached in the afternoon in the regions of the north exposed to the foehn wind. The danger exists in particular in alpine snow sports terrain.

The southerly foehn wind will transport the new snow significantly. The fresh wind slabs can be released very easily. Natural avalanches are to be expected. 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 in some cases reach large size. Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint are required.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

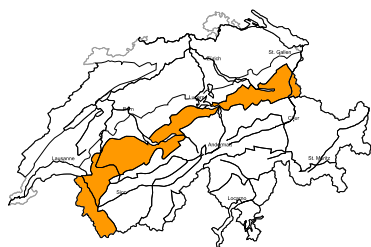
3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

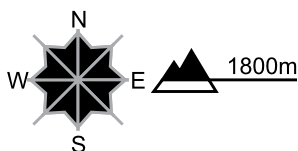
region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



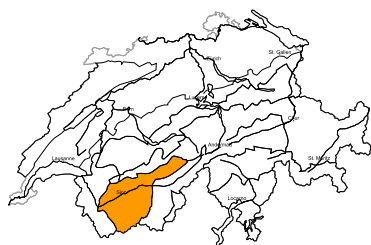
Danger description

The southerly foehn wind will transport the new snow significantly. The fresh wind slabs can be released very easily. Natural avalanches are possible, especially from the middle of the day. In some places avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2000 m.

Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

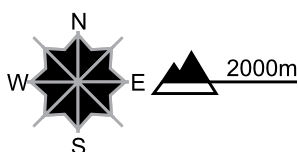
region C

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

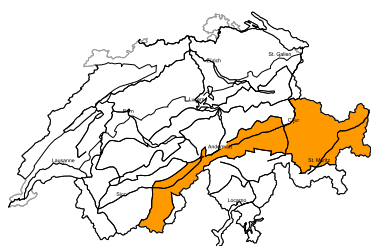


Danger description

As a consequence of a gathering strong southwesterly wind, wind slabs will form in the course of the day. These can be released very easily. Natural avalanches are possible, especially from the middle of the day. Additionally avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Caution and restraint are required.

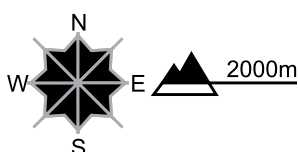
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a gathering strong southerly wind, wind slabs will form in the course of the day. The fresh and older wind slabs of the last two days can be released even 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.

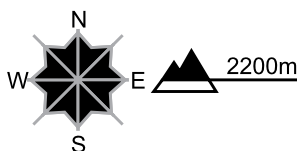
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



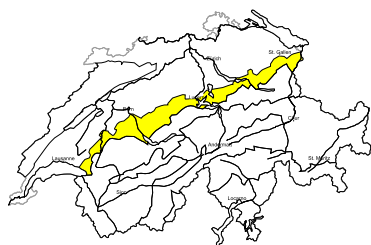
Danger description

As a consequence of a gathering strong southerly wind, wind slabs will form in the course of the day. Caution is to be exercised in particular on west, north and east facing slopes. In addition the wind slabs of the last two days on south facing slopes are prone to triggering in some cases still. Avalanches can be released by people and reach medium size.

Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

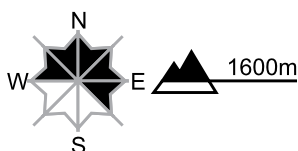
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and the mostly small wind slabs that are forming especially adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some places be released by people, but they will be small in most cases. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

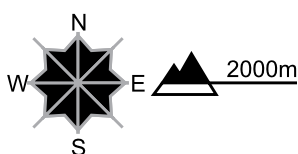
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

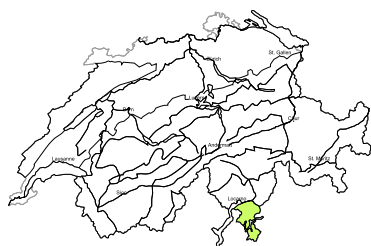


Danger description

The mostly small wind slabs of the last two days represent the main danger. These can in some places be released by people. Wind slabs are to be bypassed in very steep terrain.

region H

Level 1, low

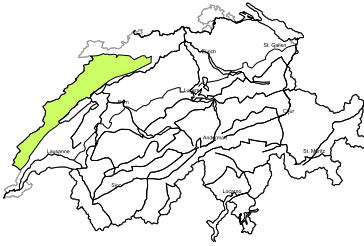


No distinct avalanche problem

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 I

Level 1, low



Wind slabs

Thus far only a little snow is lying.

Adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas small wind slabs will form. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep north and east facing slopes above approximately 1400 m.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 26.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

Older snowdrift accumulations from the last few days which were generated as a result of strong-velocity winds, initially from the west, then subsequently from the north, can still be triggered from place to place. In particular in the regions of the Lower Valais and northern flank of the Alps where snowfall was heaviest, there is still lots of loosely-packed snow on the ground. Starting on Sunday, this will be intensively transported by increasingly strong to storm-strength foehn winds. It can be expected that the ensuing snowdrift accumulations will be very easily triggerable over widespread areas. In addition, on shady slopes above approximately 2000 to 2400 m, weakly consolidated layers lie more deeply embedded inside the snowpack over widespread areas. Particularly in the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, avalanches can be triggered in these layers or fracture down to these deeper layers. In the regions on the southern flank of the Alps where snowfall has been heaviest, the snowpack structuring is more favourable. Fractures deeper down in the snowpack are not to be expected.

Observed weather on Saturday, 26.12.2020

During the night, precipitation came to an end including in the eastern regions. During the daytime it was generally sunny, apart from residual clouds in the northern regions below approximately 2000 m.

Fresh snow

During Friday night in the eastern Bernese Oberland into the Urner Alps, there was an additional 10 to 20 cm of fresh snow which fell down to low lying areas, in the other regions of Switzerland less. Thus, between Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above 2000 m:

- northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm; as much as 70 cm from the eastern Bernese Oberland into the Urner Alps;
- Upper Valais not including Simplon region, Gotthard region, northern and central Grisons, Lower Engadine, Jura region: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, less than 10 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -10 °C in the eastern regions and -6 °C in the western and southern regions.

Wind

Winds on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, as well as in general at heightened altitudes in the other regions, were blowing at moderate to strong velocity, intermittently also at storm strength, from northeasterly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 27.12.2020

Following a night of clear skies, cloud cover will move in from the west in the early morning hours. Starting in the afternoon, skies in the eastern and southern regions will also be overcast. In the latter part of the day in the furthestmost western regions, precipitation will set in.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

Temperatures in the northern regions will rise significantly, at midday at 2000 m to 0 °C in the northern regions and to -7 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds during the nocturnal hours will be blowing at light to moderate strength from northeasterly directions, shifting to southwesterly;
- in the morning hours in the northern regions, increasingly stormy southwesterly winds, then in the afternoon also at heightened altitudes in the southern regions;
- in the Alpine valleys, southerly foehn wind will arise, blowing at storm strength until evening.

Outlook through Tuesday, 29.12.2020

On both days, skies will be heavily overcast and intermittent snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. In the furthestmost western regions and in the northern Lower Valais, more than 50 cm of fresh snow is possible, in the remaining regions there will be less snowfall. In the central and eastern regions, foehn-induced bright intervals are expected intermittently. A strong to storm-strength southwesterly wind will be blowing, in the Alpine valleys on Monday initially even stronger-to-storm-strength foehn wind. On Tuesday, winds will incrementally slacken off.

As a result of the storm winds and precipitation from region to region, the avalanche situation will remain critical over widespread areas.