Avalanche bulletin through Monday, 28 December 2020

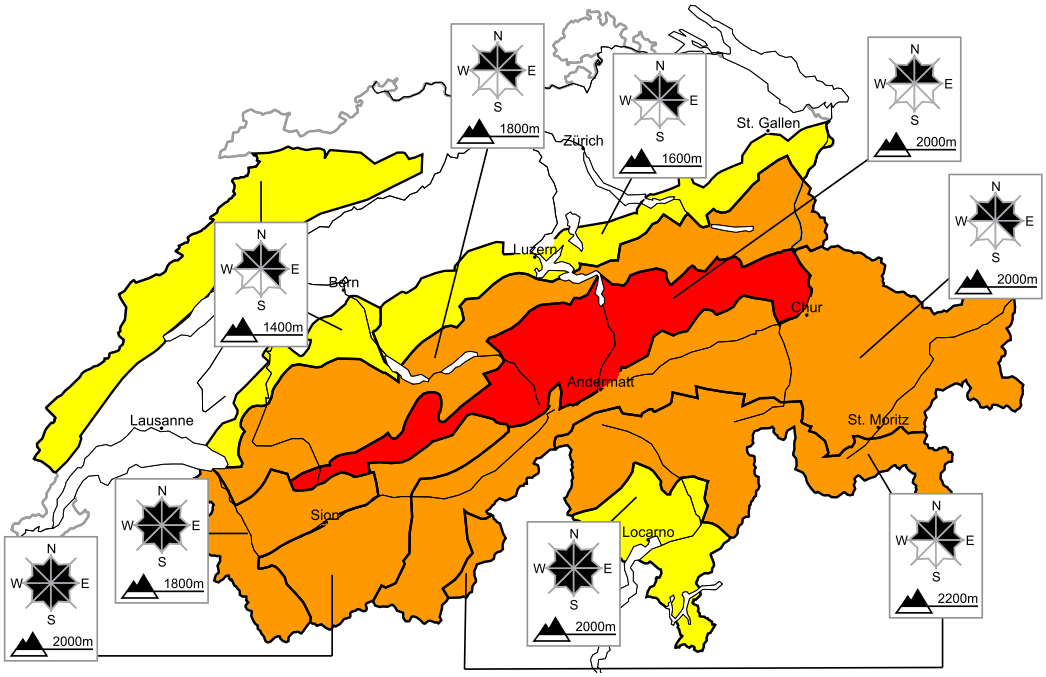
27.12.2020, 16:56

During the night a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

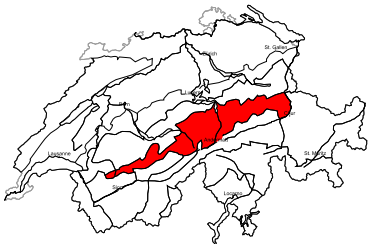
Edition: 27.12.2020, 17:00 / Next update: 28.12.2020, 08:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 27.12.2020, 17:00

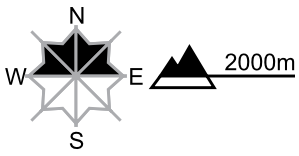


region A — Level 4, high



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The danger exists in particular in alpine snow sports terrain. The avalanche danger will decrease during the day.
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, especially during the night. In some places avalanches can also 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

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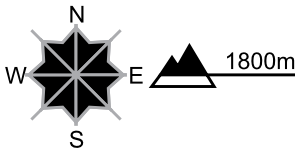
region B — Level 3, considerable

New snow, old snow

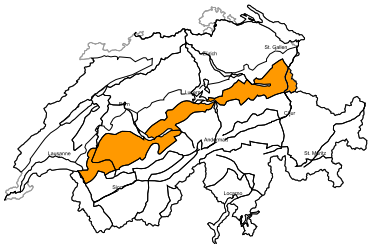
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

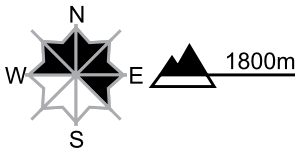
The storm force wind will transport the fresh and old snow significantly. Fresh snow and large quantities of wind-drifted snow can be released easily. Additionally avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. More frequent natural avalanches are to be expected, even large ones.
In the afternoon probably danger level 4 (high) will be reached. Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint are required.

region C — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

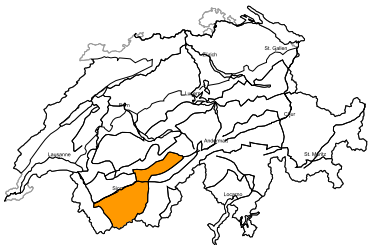


Danger description

The storm force foehn wind will transport the new snow significantly. The fresh wind slabs can be released very easily. Additionally in some places avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach large size in isolated cases. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2000 m. Natural avalanches are possible.

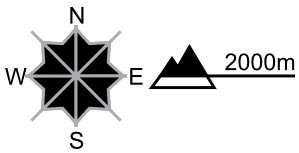
Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region D — Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong to storm force southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. These can be released very easily. Natural avalanches are possible.
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.

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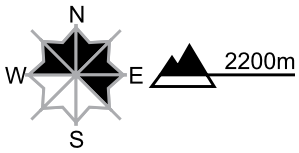
region E — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

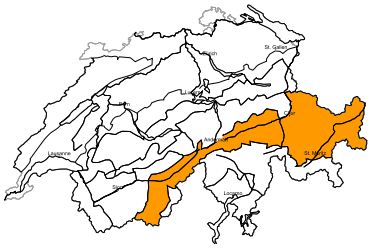
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

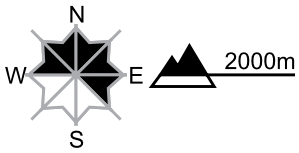
As a consequence of a strong southerly wind, wind slabs will form. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Individual natural avalanches are possible.
Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region F — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

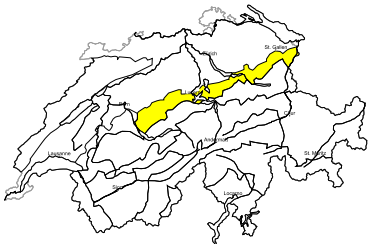
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

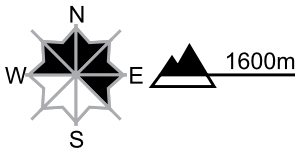
As a consequence of a strong to storm force southerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations 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 G — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



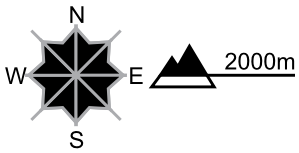
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong to storm force southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. These are rather small but can be released easily. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region H — Level 2, moderate

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The mostly small wind slabs of the last few days represent the main danger. These can in some places be released by people. Wind slabs are to be bypassed in very steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

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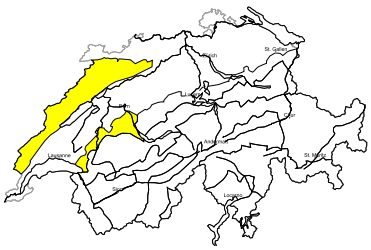
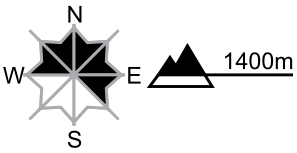
region I

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong to storm force southwesterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 27.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong to storm-velocity southwesterly winds, intermittently even reaching gale strength in the nocturnal hours, and southerly foehn winds in the foehn-exposed regions of the northern flank of the Alps, a great deal of loosely-packed snow from the most recent period of precipitation, as well as the fresh snow from Monday, will be transported. It can be expected that the snowdrift accumulations which are generated will be extremely easy to trigger over widespread areas.
In addition, in the Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in the northern parts of Grisons, on shady slopes above approximately 2000 m to 2400 m, there are weakly consolidated layers of old snow more deeply embedded inside the snowpack. Particularly in the Valais, avalanches can be triggered down to these deeper layers or, at least, fracture down to these layers. In the regions of the southern flank of the Alps where recent snowfall has been heaviest, the snowpack layering is more favourable. Fractures deeper down in the snowpack are unlikely in those regions.

Observed weather on Sunday, 27.12.2020

Following a night of predominantly clear skies, high-altitude clouds moved into western regions in the early morning hours, subsequently also into southern and eastern regions during the course of the day.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -1 °C in the northern regions and -8 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds during the nighttime hours on Saturday were blowing at light to moderate strength from northeasterly directions, then shifting to southwesterly;
- during the daytime blowing at increasingly strong-to-storm velocity from southwesterly directions;
- in the Alpine valleys of the north, strong-velocity foehn winds came up.

Weather forecast through Monday, 28.12.2020

On Sunday night and during the daytime on Monday, intermittent precipitation is anticipated down to low lying areas. Only in the foehn-exposed regions in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps will it remain dry for the most part.

Fresh snow

By Monday afternoon:

- Jura region, northern and furthermost western parts of Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm; along the French border as much as 50 cm;
- Vaud and Fribourg Alps, from the western part of Bernese Oberland into Aletsch region, Main Alpine Ridge in the Lower Valais, eastern sector of Main Alpine Ridge, Moesano: 15 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less than 15 cm.

Temperature

Temperatures are expected to drop, at midday at 2000 m to -8 °C.

Wind

- Winds in the mountains will be blowing at strong to storm strength, intermittently even at gale strength, from southwesterly directions;
- in the foehn-exposed regions of the north, storm-strength foehn winds will be blowing until early morning, subsequently slackening off during the course of the day.

Avalanche bulletin through Monday, 28 December 2020

Outlook through Wednesday, 30.12.2020

Tuesday

Weather conditions will be variable, skies often heavily overcast accompanied by snow showers extending down to low lying areas in the western and southern regions. In the eastern regions, conditions will be more pleasant as a result of foehn influence. The southwesterly winds will be blowing generally at strong to storm strength in the mountains, in the southern regions blowing at moderate strength. The avalanche danger levels could increase somewhat in the western regions more than anywhere else.

Wednesday

Skies will increasingly be variably cloudy, accompanied by snow showers extending down to low lying areas in the western and northern regions in particular. The westerly winds will still be blowing at light to moderate strength. Temperatures will remain low. Avalanche danger levels will diminish only incrementally.