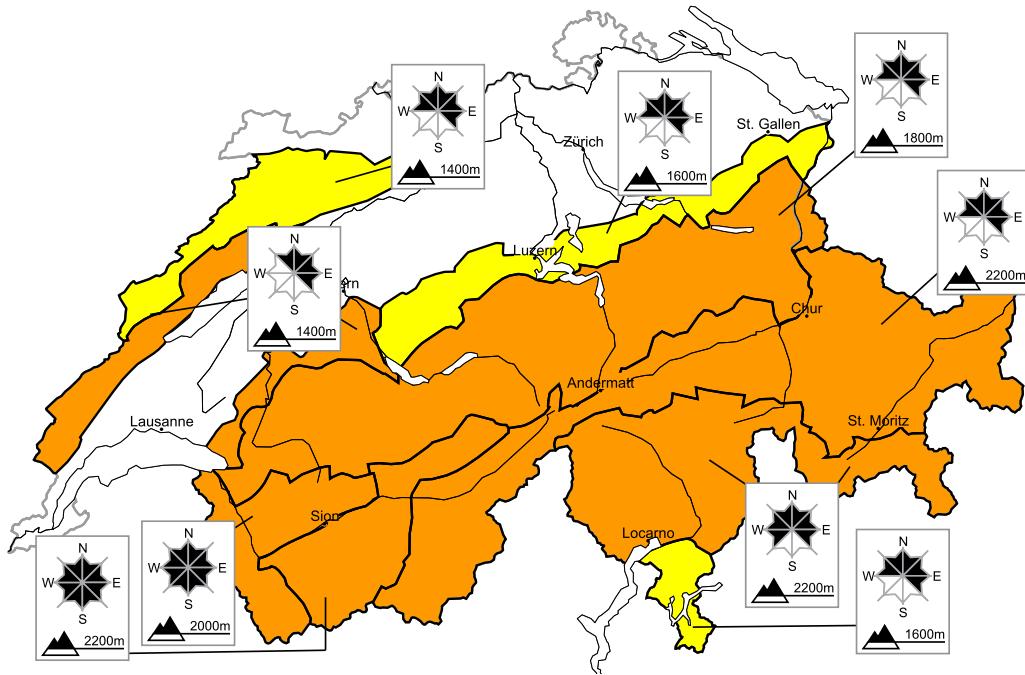


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Wind slabs require caution

Edition: 29.12.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 29.12.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 29.12.2020, 08:00



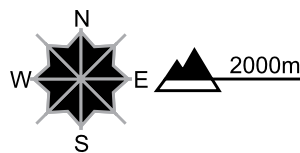
region A

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

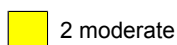
As a consequence of new snow and a moderate to strong southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. New snow and wind slabs can over a wide area be released by people. Additionally avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Natural avalanches are possible.

Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

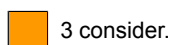
Danger levels



1 low



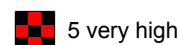
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

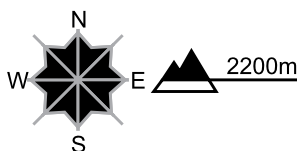
region B

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate to strong southwesterly wind, further wind slabs formed. The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant. Isolated 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.

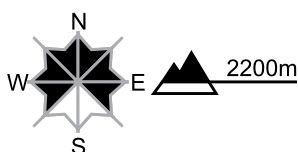
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

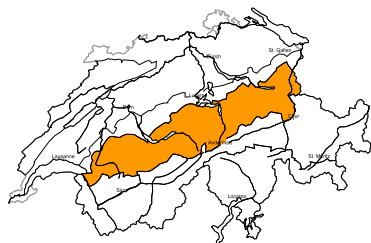


Danger description

New snow and wind slabs can be released by people. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Avalanches can reach medium size. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

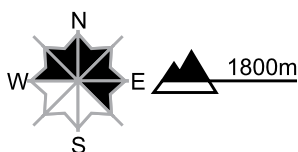
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



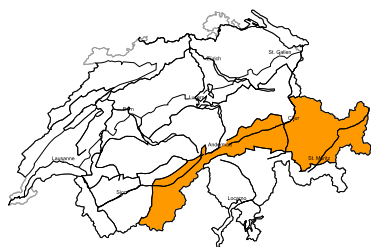
Danger description

Fresh and older wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant. These avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with new snow and are therefore difficult to recognise. They are to be found in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. 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.

Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

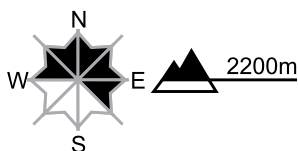
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of the last three days 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.

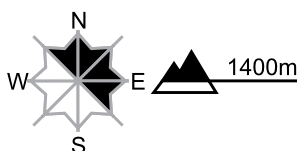
region F

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

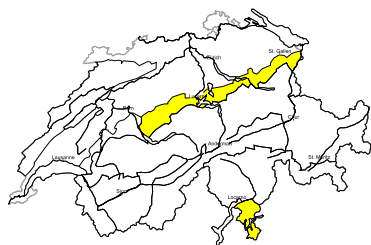


Danger description

The fresh snow and in particular the many sometimes large wind slabs represent the main danger. The wind slabs are to be bypassed especially in very steep terrain. The conditions are sometimes unfavourable for backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking in steep terrain.

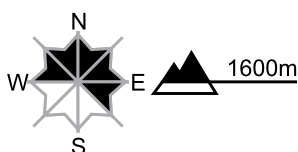
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

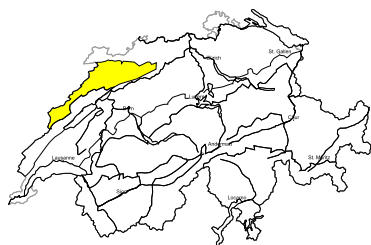


Danger description

Especially adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls small wind slabs formed. These are to be assessed with care and prudence. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

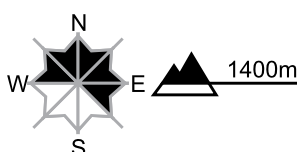
region H

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong westerly wind, small wind slabs will form especially adjacent to ridgelines. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. 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 28.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

A strong to storm force southwesterly wind, which became occasionally violent during the night, and a storm force south foehn in the regions exposed to the foehn on the northern flank of the Alps, transported a large quantity of loosely bonded snow from the preceding precipitation period and the fresh snow from Monday. In consequence, both the surface of the snowpack and the snow's distribution have been significantly influenced by the wind. In particular in the regions of the western and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps where relatively small quantities of snow have fallen, in many instances all the snow has been transported from terrain exposed to the wind. The likelihood of an avalanche release in the snow drift accumulations here was high in some cases and is decreasing. Snowfall and wind will give rise to fresh snow drift accumulations in some regions.

On shady slopes above approximately 2000 to 2400 m in Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in the northern parts of Grisons, weakly bonded layers of old snow exist deeper in the snowpack over a wide area. In Valais in particular, avalanches can be released in or penetrate these layers. In the regions of the southern flank of the Alps where a lot of snow has fallen, the bonding of the snowpack is more favourable. Here, fractures are unlikely to occur deep in the snowpack.

Observed weather on Monday, 28.12.2020

It was very cloudy with snowfall down to low altitudes in the west and south in particular. The northeast remained mostly dry.

Fresh snow

From Sunday afternoon until Monday afternoon:

- Extreme west of Lower Valais, Conthey-Fully and central and southern Ticino, Moesano, Val Bregaglia and the Bernina region: 20 to 40 cm
- Jura, northern Ticino, rest of Engadine: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere: smaller amounts or none

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about -7 °C

Wind

Southwesterly

- On Sunday night in the north, strong to storm force and storm force foehn, otherwise mostly moderate to strong
- Easing significantly in the morning and remaining light to moderate in the afternoon

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 29.12.2020

There will be variable to dense cloud cover with some bright intervals in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and the inneralpine regions of both Valais and Grisons. Snow will fall down to low altitudes in the west and south, and it will be mostly dry in the east.

Fresh snow

From Monday afternoon until Tuesday afternoon:

- Extreme west of Lower Valais on the border to France: 20 to 30 cm
- Jura, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, western Bernese Oberland, northern Valais and the rest of Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm
- Other regions: less than 10 cm, and mostly dry in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern and central Grisons

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: -7 °C

Wind

From the southwest

- Strong to storm force in the north, easing a little in the afternoon, foehn in the east
- Moderate to strong in the west and south

Outlook through Thursday, 31.12.2020

Wednesday

Dense cloud in the west, variable in the east, becoming increasingly sunny in the south. A little snow will fall in the west and north. During the day the wind will be light to moderate from the west. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.

Thursday

The year will end with changeable weather and showers in the west, but partly sunny conditions will persist in the east and south. It will remain cold. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.