Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 30 December 2020

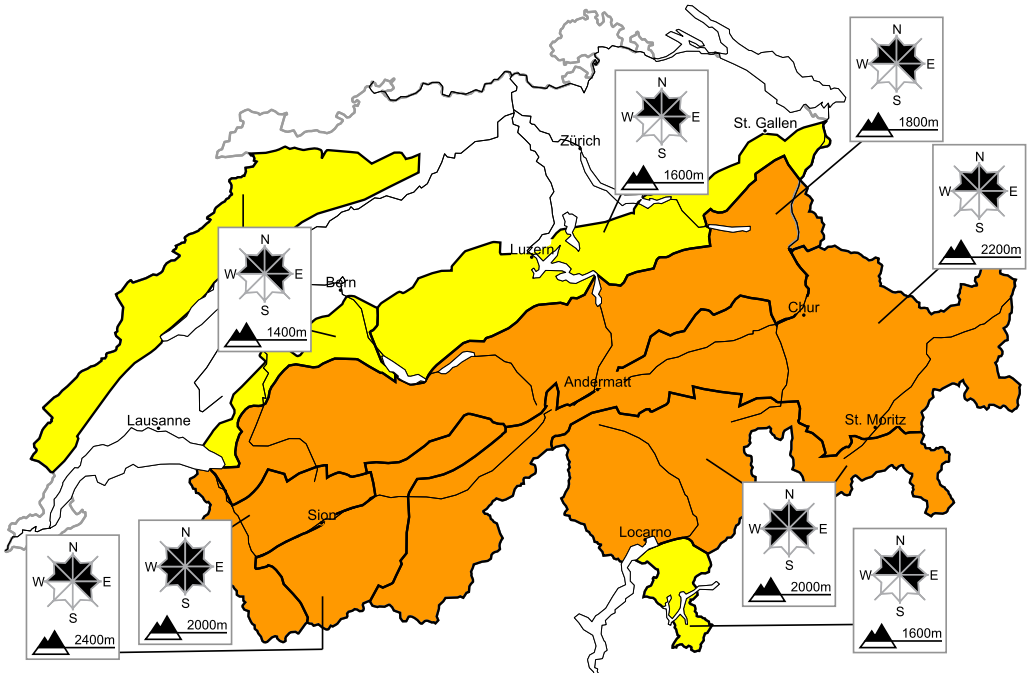
30.12.2020, 07:52

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. New snow and wind slabs require caution

Edition: 30.12.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 30.12.2020, 17:00

Avalanche danger

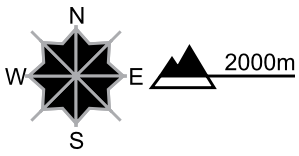
updated on 30.12.2020, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones.

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. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
Experience and restraint are required.

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

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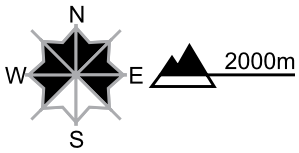
region B — Level 3, considerable

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



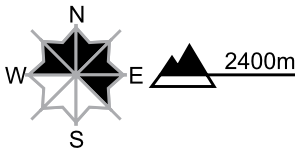
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. The avalanche prone locations are to be found also in areas close to the tree line.
Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, wind slabs

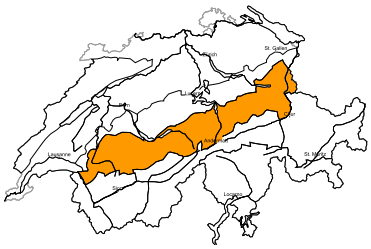
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

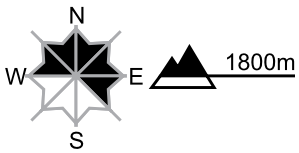
Precarious weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
As a consequence of a moderate to strong southwesterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed as well. They can be released by a single winter sport participant.
Caution and restraint are required.

region D — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The older wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. The 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, in particular at a distance from ridgelines.
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.

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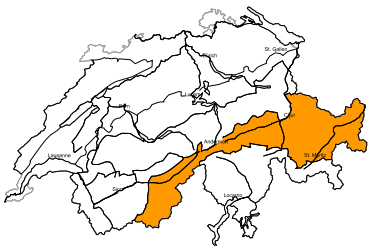
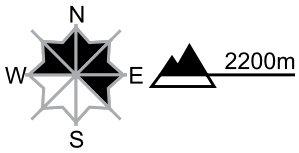
region E — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

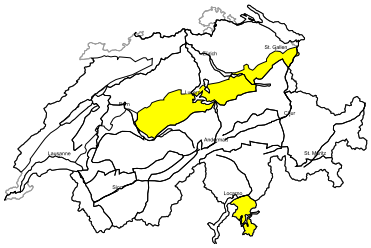
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

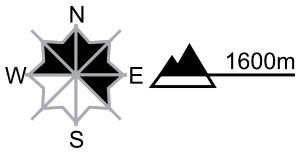
The wind slabs of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in steep terrain.
Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on very steep north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region F — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

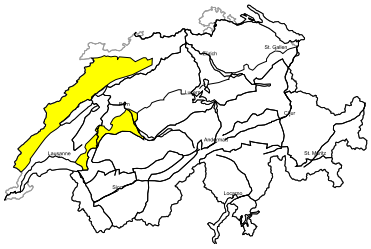
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

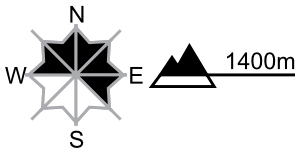
The mostly small wind slabs of the last few days are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. They are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region G — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the 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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 29.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

The strong to storm force southwesterly wind has transported much of last week's loosely bonded snow. 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 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. At the beginning of the week the snow drift accumulations were highly prone to triggering in some regions, but they are now becoming increasingly stable.
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 Tuesday, 29.12.2020

It was mostly very cloudy. In the west, snow fell even at low altitudes. In the south, there were just a few snowflakes. The east was mostly dry and occasionally bright.

Fresh snow
From Sunday evening until Tuesday evening, the following aggregate amounts of snow fell:
- Chablais, northern Lower Valais: 40 to 60 cm; on the border to France, up to 70 cm
- Jura, Vaud and Fribourg Alps, extreme west of Bernese Oberland, northern Upper Valais, northern Ticino, Moesano, Val Bregaglia and the Bernina region: 20 to 40 cm
- Other regions of Lower Valais, of the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and of the southern flank of the Alps, also central Grisons: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere: a few centimetres or remaining dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: about -7 °C

Wind
From the southwest
- In the north, strong to storm force, easing as the day progresses and becoming light to moderate in the afternoon
- In the west and south, moderate to strong, becoming light to moderate in the afternoon

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 30.12.2020

The west will be very cloudy and a little snow will fall, even at low altitudes. The east will have variable cloud cover, and it will be sunny at times in northern and central Grisons. In the south, there could be further light snowfall in the early morning, but it will become increasingly sunny in the afternoon.

Fresh snow
From Tuesday evening until Wednesday evening, up to 5 cm of snow will fall in the Jura, the extreme west of Lower Valais, northern Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps excluding the Simplon region, and up to 10 cm will fall in the far west

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: between -9 °C in the west and -7 °C in the south

Wind
- In the north: moderate from westerly directions
- In the south: moderate from the west, veering northerly during the day

Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 30 December 2020

Outlook through Friday, 01.01.2021

On New Year’s Eve, changeable with showers in the west, but partly sunny conditions will persist at first in the east and south. Changeable with isolated snow showers on New Year’s Day, in particular in the west and south. It will remain cold. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.