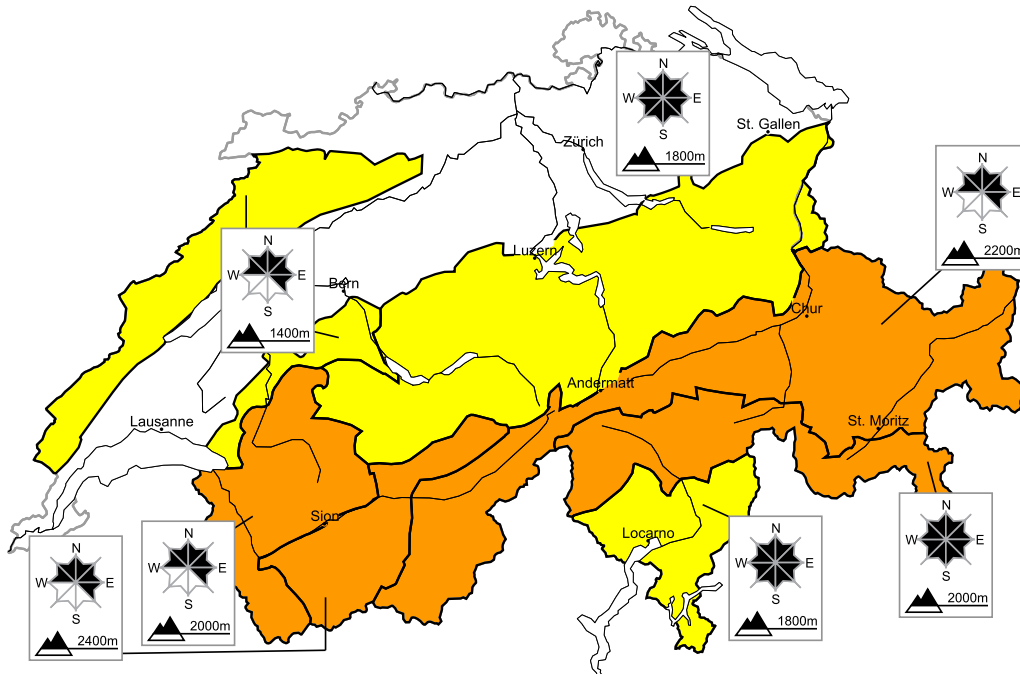


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 31.12.2020, 08:00 / Next update: 31.12.2020, 17:00

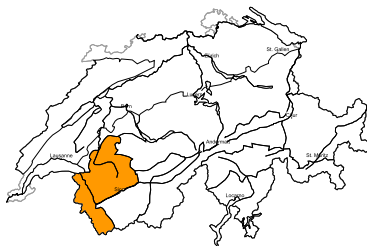
Avalanche danger

updated on 31.12.2020, 08:00



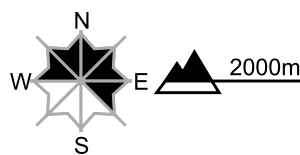
region A

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases 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 rather lightly snow-covered north facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Isolated whumpung sounds can indicate the danger. Experience and restraint are required.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



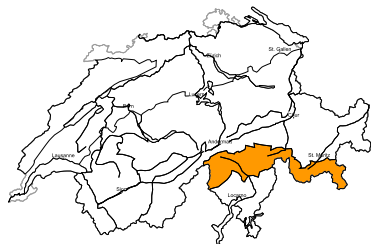
4 high



5 very high

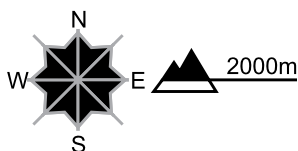
region B

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

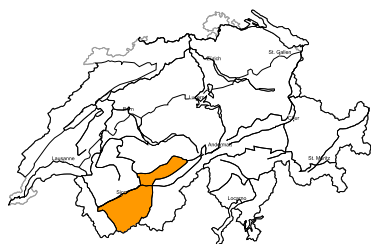


Danger description

As a consequence of northerly wind, mostly small wind slabs formed during the night. The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

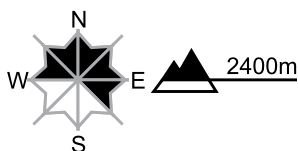
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

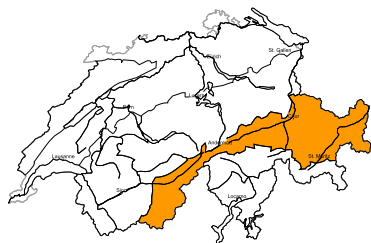


Danger description

Precarious weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Isolated whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. Older wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant. Experience and restraint are required.

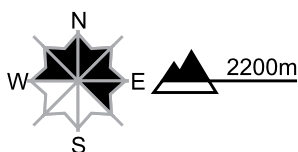
region D

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 whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

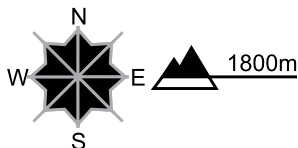
region E

Level 2, moderate



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. They are to be found in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain,, also at a distance from ridgelines. Additionally in isolated cases 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. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

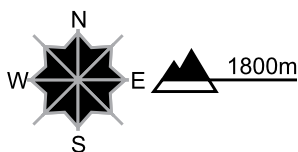
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

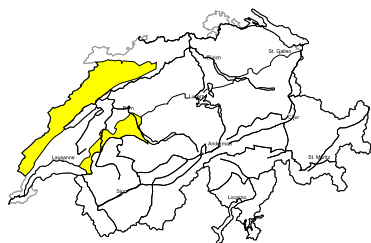


Danger description

As a consequence of northerly wind, mostly small wind slabs formed during the night in some localities. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. The older wind slabs are covered with new snow and therefore barely recognisable. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

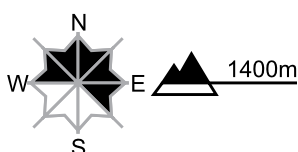
region G

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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 30.12.2020, 17:00

Snowpack

The snowdrift accumulations generated over the last few days are stabilising to an increasing degree, but are still prone to triggering in some places. Particularly in the Valais, in northern Ticino and in Grisons, slab avalanches have been triggered by winter sports enthusiasts during the last three days. In the regions of the northern flank of the Alps where snow is shallow, wind-exposed terrain is frequently windblown, completely bare of snow.

In the Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in the northern parts of Grisons, there are weakly consolidated layers of old snow evident widespread more deeply embedded inside the snowpack on shady slopes above approximately 2000 to 2400 m. In the Valais in particular, avalanches can be triggered from these layers or else fracture down to these layers. In the regions of the southern flank of the Alps where there is a great deal of snow, the snowpack structuring is more favourable. Fractures in more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack are not likely there.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 30.12.2020

In the western regions skies were heavily overcast and there was a small amount of snowfall down to low lying areas. In the Valais it remained mostly dry, with a few bright intervals. In the eastern regions it was sunny to start with, subsequently skies became increasingly overcast in the afternoon. In the southern regions it was only partly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon in the Jura region and the furthest part of Lower Valais, 5 to 10 cm of fresh snow was registered.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -8 °C.

Wind

- In the northern regions, winds were blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly directions;
- in the southern regions, light winds prevailed from westerly directions.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 31.12.2020

On New Year's Eve, skies will be heavily overcast and intermittent snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas in the western regions. In the eastern and the southern regions it will still be partly sunny during the morning hours, then cloud cover will move in starting at midday.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon in the western part of Lower Valais, in the northern part of Valais and in the Vaud Alps and Fribourg Alps, maximum 5 cm of fresh snow is anticipated; in the Jura and the furthest western regions as much as 10 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in the western regions and -4 °C in the eastern regions, and -8 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds in the northern regions will be blowing at moderate strength from westerly directions during the nocturnal hours, during the daytime hours intermittently at strong velocity. In the foehn-exposed valleys there will be a tendency towards foehn wind starting in the afternoon;
- in the southern regions, moderate strength northerly winds will be blowing during the nighttime hours, during the daytime blowing at light to moderate strength from the southwest.

Outlook through Saturday, 02.01.2021**Friday**

On New Year's Day, skies will be variably cloudy accompanied by isolated snow showers in the western and southern regions in particular. In the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in central Valais, it will generally remain dry, with some bright intervals. Temperatures will remain low.

Avalanche danger levels are expected to gradually decrease.

Saturday

Skies will be heavily overcast and intermittent snowfall is anticipated in the northern regions, accompanied by intermittent sunshine. In the southern regions, persistent snowfall is expected. The snowfall level will ascend to approximately 700 m during the course of the day. As a result of the fresh fallen snow, avalanche danger levels will increase from region to region.