Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 11 January 2021

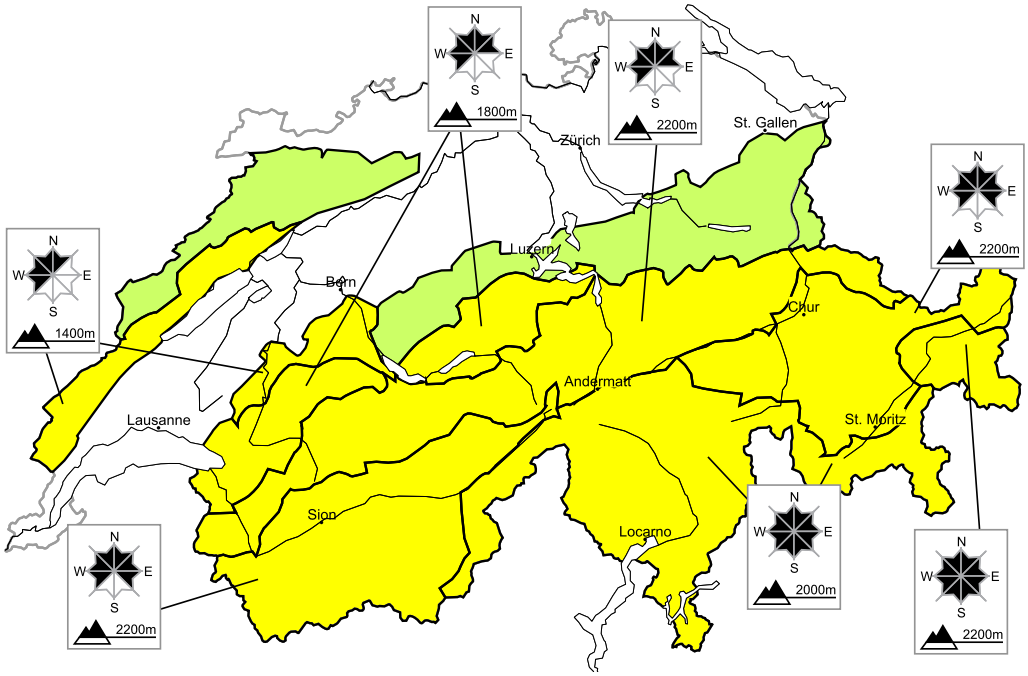
11.1.2021, 07:45

Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

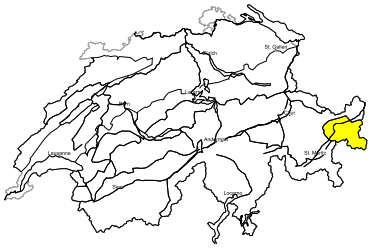
Edition: 11.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 11.1.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 11.1.2021, 08:00

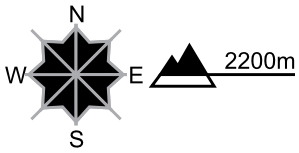


region A — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye.
Places where surface hoar has been covered with snow are especially dangerous. Here the likelihood of avalanches is quite high. Whumpfing and hissing sounds and shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger. The avalanche situation is more favourable in highly frequented terrain.
Backcountry touring calls for defensive route selection.

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

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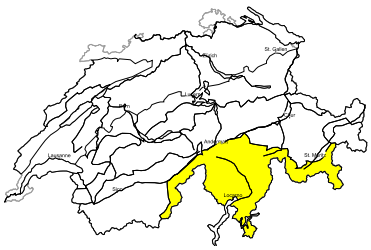
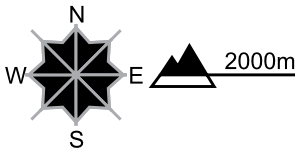
region B — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

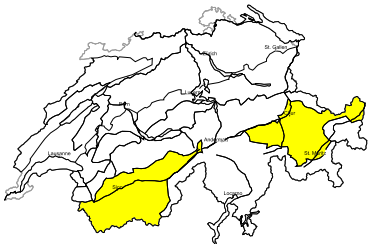
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

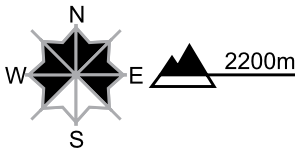
The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. The fresh wind slabs can be released easily. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.
Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in deeper layers.
Avalanches can reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Old snow

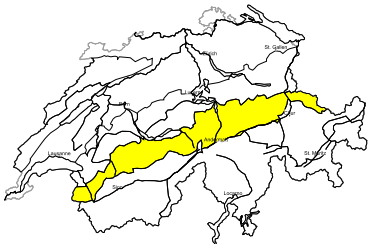
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

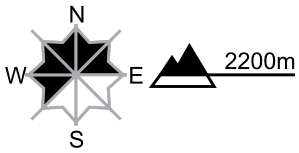
Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise.
The fresh wind slabs are mostly small but prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

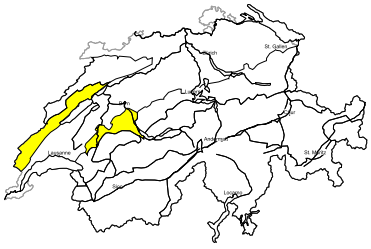
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

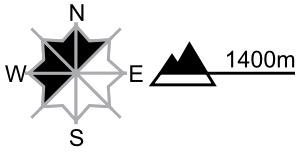
As a consequence of northeasterly wind, small wind slabs formed in some localities. These represent the main danger. The fresh wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.
Careful route selection is important.

region E — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong northeasterly wind, clearly visible wind slabs formed. These are small but in some cases prone to triggering. 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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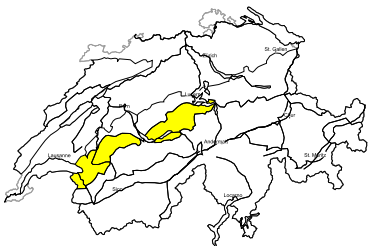
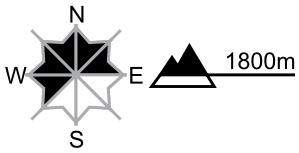
region F — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

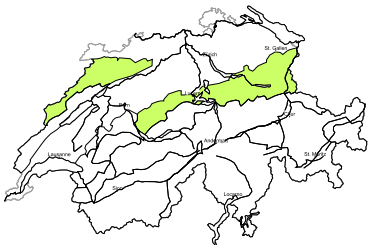
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong northeasterly wind, clearly visible wind slabs formed. These are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. 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.

region G — Level 1, low



Wind slabs

As a consequence of a sometimes moderate northeasterly wind, small wind slabs formed. These are in some cases prone to triggering. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls. Caution is to be exercised in particular in steep rocky terrain.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.1.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of bise winds, predominantly small-sized but easily triggered snowdrift accumulations have been generated in the Prealps and the Jura region in particular.
On the northern flank of the Alps the snowpack is comparatively thin for this juncture of the season, and shows striking signs of wind impact. In the Valais and in Grisons, particularly on shady slopes above 2400 m, fractures are possible in the expansively metamorphosed (faceted) weak layers in the middle and lower sections of the snowpack. Whumpf noises can be indicators of imminent danger. In some parts of the Lower Engadine and in Val Müstair, surface hoar has been blanketed by fresh snow. In those regions, avalanche prone locations occur more frequently. On the southern flank of the Alps the snowpack layering is favourable for the most part, so that the dangers stem from more recent snowdrift accumulations more than anything else.
In all regions of Switzerland, the snowpack is expansively metamorphosed (faceted) and loosely-packed. It provides a weak snow base for the approaching snowfall.

Observed weather on Sunday, 10.01.2021

It was sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -5 °C in the western regions and -7 °C in the southern and eastern regions.

Wind

- In the Jura region and on the northern flank of the Alps, a moderate to strong-velocity bise wind was blowing;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, winds were predominantly light to moderate from northeasterly directions.

Weather forecast through Monday, 11.01.2021

In the northern regions, low-altitude stratus cloud (high fog) will prevail, extending up to an upper border of approximately 1400 m. Above that altitude it will be predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in the western and southern regions, and -7 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

Winds in the southern and high alpine regions will be blowing at moderate strength, from place to place at higher velocity; in the remaining regions of Switzerland predominantly light winds, from the northeast.

Outlook through Wednesday, 13.01.2021

On Tuesday, cloud cover will move in from the northwest and snowfall is expected to set in. The snowfall will persist until Wednesday morning. The focal point of the precipitation will lie on the northern flank of the Alps. The snowfall level will be in low lying areas. In the furthermost southern regions it is expected to remain dry and partly sunny. The northwesterly winds will be blowing at increasingly strong velocity; on Wednesday in the southern regions the winds will reach storm strength. Fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts will be deposited on top of an extremely unfavourable snowpack surface over widespread areas.
Avalanche danger levels are expected to increase on Tuesday, particularly in the northern regions. On Tuesday night, avalanche danger is expected to increase markedly in all regions of Switzerland.