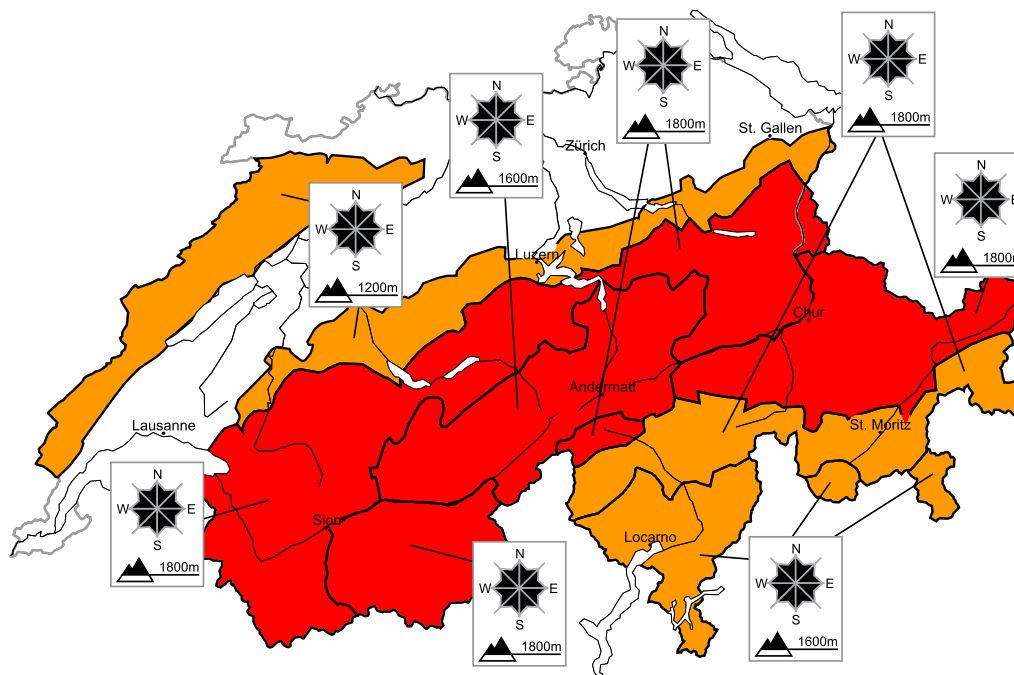


High avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Numerous natural avalanches are to be expected

Edition: 14.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 14.1.2021, 17:00

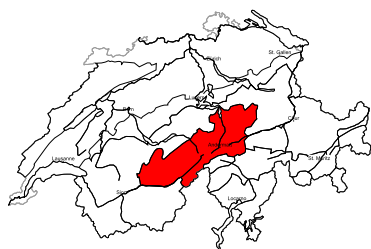
Avalanche danger

updated on 14.1.2021, 08:00



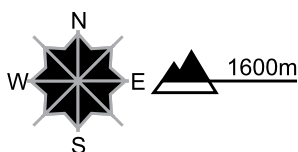
region A

Level 4, high



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Numerous large and, in many cases, very large natural avalanches are to be expected. These can reach as far as the valley bottom. Exposed transportation routes are endangered.

The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are dangerous. This also applies at intermediate altitudes. Closures must be respected and safety instructions of the authorities must be followed.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

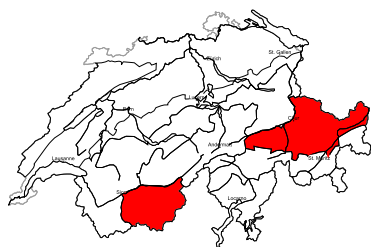
3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

region B

Level 4, high



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

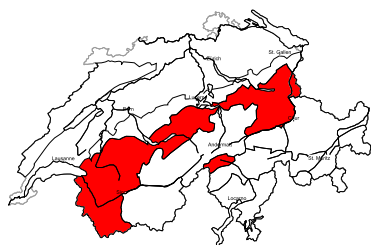


Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack. Numerous natural avalanches are to be expected. Avalanches can be triggered in deep layers and reach very large size. Exposed transportation routes are endangered in some cases. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are dangerous. This also applies at intermediate altitudes.

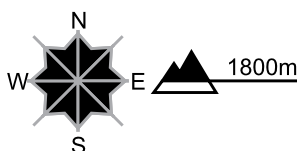
region C

Level 4, high



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Numerous natural avalanches are to be expected. These can in isolated cases reach very large size. Exposed transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are dangerous. This also applies at intermediate altitudes.

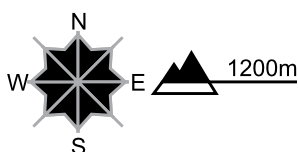
region D

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, also at intermediate altitudes. Avalanches can in some cases reach dangerously large size. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

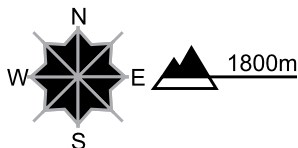
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. In addition individual natural avalanches are possible. In isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers and reach dangerously large size.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

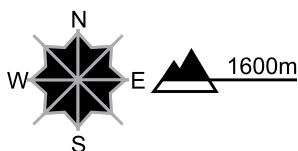
region F

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, large wind slabs formed in the last few days. These are prone to triggering. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.

The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 13.1.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

Prior to the current snowfall the old snowpack surface was very loosely-packed over widespread areas and consisted of expansively metamorphosed (faceted) crystals or of surface hoar. Bonding to the many layers of fresh snow and fresh snowdrifts was thus extremely poor. Together with the heavy intensity of precipitation, a high degree of avalanche activity can be expected. In the Valais and in Grisons more than anywhere else, avalanches can fracture also in the weak old snowpack.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 13.01.2021

On Tuesday night, intensive snowfall was registered down to low lying areas. During the daytime on Wednesday skies were frequently overcast but it remained by and large dry. During the afternoon, the snowfall recommenced. In the furthestmost southern regions it was sunny as a result of northerly winds.

Fresh snow

Prior to the beginning of the precipitation on Tuesday afternoon and until the end of this round of precipitation on Wednesday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered:

- Northern Alpine Ridge from Les Diablerets into the Glarus Alps, eastern part of Lower Valais: 30 to 40 cm;
- remaining regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, remaining parts of Valais not including Saastal and not including southern Simplon region, northern Grisons, western Jura region: 20 to 30 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland maximum 20 cm; in the furthestmost southern regions it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in the southwestern regions and -8 °C in the northeastern regions.

Wind

Winds were frequently blowing at strong velocity from westerly to northwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 14.01.2021

Skies will be heavily overcast, accompanied by persistent and heavy snowfall. The snowfall level will ascend temporarily during the nocturnal hours in the northern regions to 1000 m, in the western regions to 1500 m. During the daytime the snowfall level will descend again down to low lying areas. In the furthestmost southern regions it will be sunny as a result of storm-strength northwesterly winds.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above approximately 1500 m, in Grisons above approximately 1000 m:

- Northern Alpine Ridge from the Wildstrubel into the Glarus Alps: 70 to 100 cm;
- remaining regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, Valais, Gotthard region: 50 to 80 cm;
- Jura region, remaining parts of northern and central Grisons, northern part of Engadine: 30 to 50 cm;
- Bleniotal, Alto Moesano and Engadine south of the Inn: 20 to 30 cm; further to the south, less; in the furthestmost southern regions it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in the southern and western regions and -8 °C in the northeastern regions.

Wind

- Winds will be blowing at strong to storm strength from west to northwest;
- during the daytime in the eastern regions at intermediate altitudes, winds will be light from the northeast.

Outlook through Saturday, 16.01.2021

Friday

Skies will be heavily overcast. Snowfall is expected over widespread areas down to low lying areas, the intensity of the precipitation is expected to gradually taper off. In the northern and western regions, it is expected that another 20-30 cm of snow will fall, these amounts are however still uncertain. In the southern regions skies will still be overcast in the morning, thereafter it will turn increasingly sunny.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches is expected to change during Thursday night in northern and western regions, but not significantly. As the precipitation intensity slackens off, the degree of naturally triggered avalanche activity will decrease. In the major areas of precipitation at low and intermediate altitudes, increasingly frequent glide-snow avalanches and hillsides snowslides can be expected. For winter sports enthusiasts in outlying terrain, the avalanche situation remains dangerous.

Saturday

It will be predominantly sunny but rather cool.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches is expected to decrease significantly in the major areas of precipitation, but only gradually in the other regions as a result of poor snowpack layering. For winter sports enthusiasts in outlying terrain, the situation remains treacherous over widespread areas. In the major areas of precipitation at low and intermediate altitudes, glide-snow avalanches and hillside snowslides can be expected.