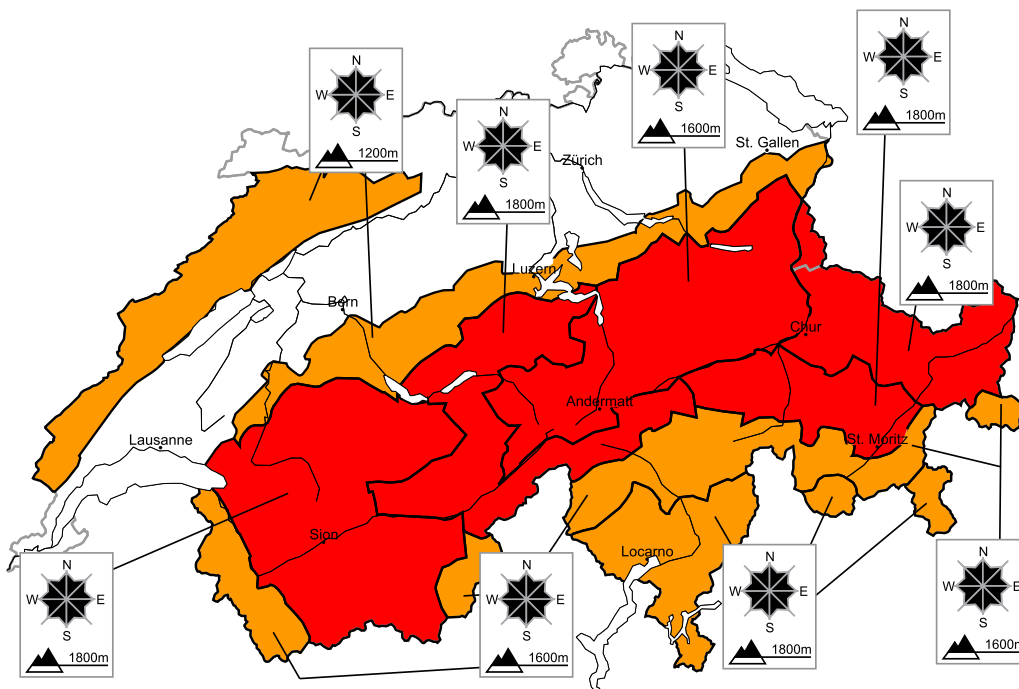


High avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Outside marked and open pistes a very dangerous avalanche situation will prevail

Edition: 15.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 15.1.2021, 17:00

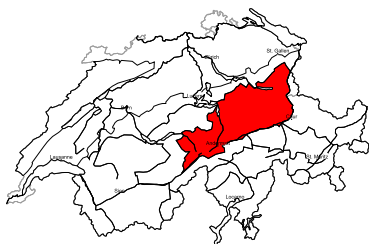
Avalanche danger

updated on 15.1.2021, 08:00



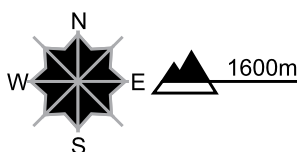
region A

Level 4, high



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

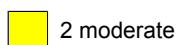
Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. More large and, in isolated cases, very large natural avalanches are possible. These can reach as far as the valley bottom. Exposed transportation routes are endangered in some cases.

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

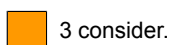
Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



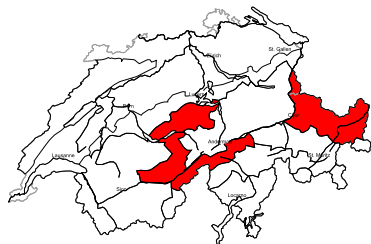
4 high



5 very high

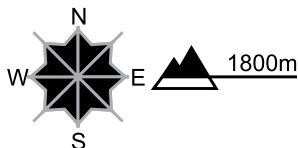
region B

Level 4, high



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



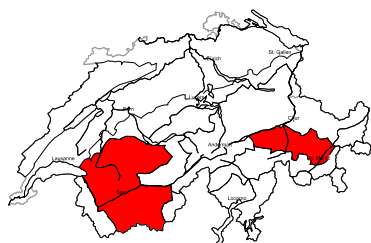
Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Natural avalanches are possible. 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 very dangerous. This also applies at intermediate altitudes.

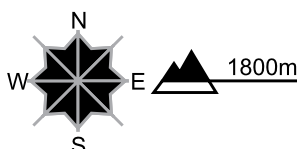
region C

Level 4, high



New snow

Avalanche prone locations

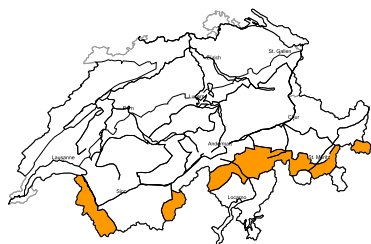


Danger description

The danger exists in particular in alpine snow sports terrain. Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Natural avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size. Exposed transportation routes are endangered only rarely. Winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very dangerous. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm sign. This also applies at intermediate altitudes.

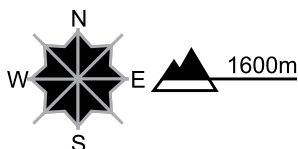
region D

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations

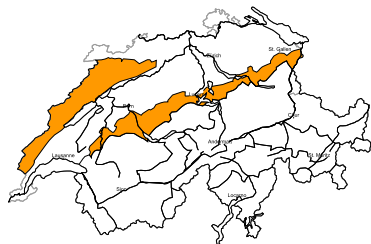


Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. These can in some cases 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 and restraint.

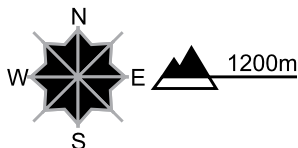
region E

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can reach dangerously large size.

Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

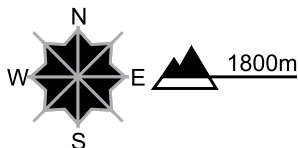
region F

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 in some cases still prone to triggering. Avalanches can in some places be released by people 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 14.1.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

Prior to the current round of snowfall, the old snowpack surface was extremely loosely-packed over widespread areas and consisted of expansively metamorphosed (faceted) snow crystals or of surface hoar. Bonding to the large amounts of fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts is, for that reason, extremely poor. In the Valais and in Grisons more than anywhere else, avalanches can fracture down to more deeply embedded layers inside the weak old snowpack. A great number of avalanche releases have been reported, including at intermediate altitudes. The avalanches did not have a great deal of voluminous mass, however they tended to plummet downward for great distances. As of the slackening off of the precipitation intensity and wind velocity, the naturally triggered avalanche activity is expected to incrementally diminish starting on Friday morning.

Observed weather on Thursday, 14.01.2021

As a result of strong-velocity northwesterly winds, there was heavy precipitation registered over widespread areas. In the eastern regions there was snowfall down to low lying areas. In the other regions of Switzerland the snowfall level ascended to 1000 m to 1400 m, before then redescending down to low lying areas. In the furthestmost southern regions, it was sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered:

- Northern flank of the Alps east of the Jungfrau, Goms, Gotthard region, northern Grisons, northern parts of Central Grisons, Lower Engadine: 40 to 70 cm, from place to place also more;
- in the other regions of Switzerland over widespread areas, 20 to 40 cm; in the western part of Lower Valais, in the remaining parts of Ticino, in the Moesano and in the southern parts of Upper Engadine and the bordering valleys to the south, less.

Thus, since the beginning of this period of precipitation on Tuesday at midday until Thursday afternoon, the following overall amounts of fresh snow have been registered:

- Northern part of Upper Valais, Gotthard region, Urner, Schwyzer and Glarus Alps, Alpstein, Flims, northern Grisons, northern part of Lower Engadine: 80 to 100 cm, more from place to place;
- remaining regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, eastern part of Lower Valais, Upper Valais not including Saastal and not including the southern Simplon region, remaining part of central Grisons: 50 to 80 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 20 to 50 cm over widespread areas; in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, as well as in Val Bregaglia and Val Poschiavo, less; or else, it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, from Central Switzerland into the Ticino, -2 °C; in the other regions -5 °C.

Wind

Winds were blowing at strong to storm velocity from northwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Friday, 15.01.2021

Skies are expected to be heavily overcast, accompanied by additional snowfall which will again be heavy on the northern Alpine Ridge. On Friday morning the precipitation intensity will gradually diminish in all regions of Switzerland. The snowfall level during the nighttime hours will lie at 1000 m in the western regions, elsewhere at low lying areas. In the furthestmost southern regions, it will be dry and, in the afternoon, it will turn sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:

- Northern Alpine Ridge from Les Diablerets into the Glarus Alps: 30 to 40 cm; from the Blüemlisalp as far as the Reuss, 50 cm;
- remaining regions north of an imaginary Rhine-Rhone line, southern part of Lower Valais, remaining parts of the Gotthard region, Prättigau, Silvretta, Jura region: 20 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less than 20 cm; only in the furthestmost southern regions will it remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C.

Wind

- Winds on Thursday evening will still be blowing at strong velocity, at high altitudes at storm strength, from northwesterly directions;
- during the nocturnal hours blowing at moderate strength, from place to place at strong velocity, from westerly directions;
- during the daytime blowing predominantly at moderate strength, subsequently shifting to northerly-to-northeasterly.

Outlook through Sunday, 17.01.2021

Saturday

It is expected to be predominantly sunny and cold.

Avalanche danger levels are expected to decrease significantly. For winter sports enthusiasts who are active in outlying terrain removed from secured ski slopes, the conditions are still treacherous. In the major areas of precipitation, increasingly frequent gliding avalanches and hillside snowslides can be expected at intermediate and low altitudes.

Sunday

In the northern regions, skies will be heavily overcast, accompanied by snowfall down to low lying areas. The amounts of expected precipitation are still uncertain. In the furthestmost southern regions it will be rather sunny as a result of moderate strength northerly winds.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly in the northern regions. In the southern regions, the avalanche danger will decrease. In the major areas of precipitation, continuing gliding avalanches and hillside snowslides can still be expected at low and intermediate altitudes.