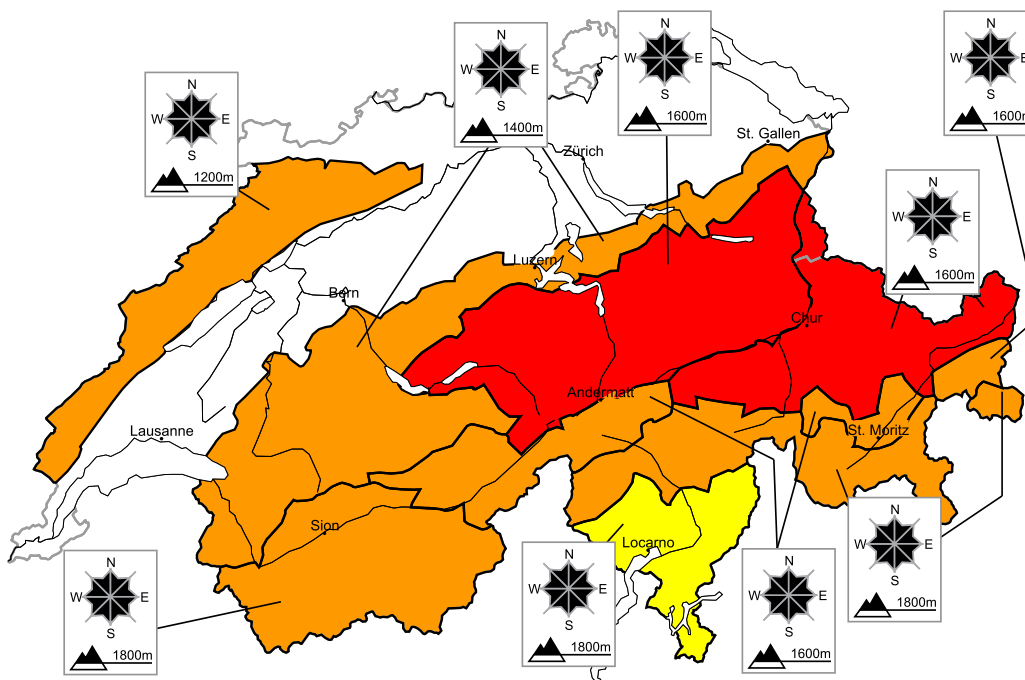


# High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Outside marked and open pistes a very dangerous avalanche situation will prevail

Edition: 16.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 16.1.2021, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 16.1.2021, 08:00



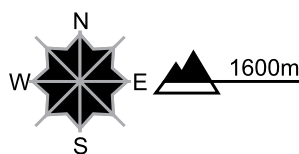
### region A

### Level 4, high



#### New snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

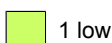
Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Only isolated natural avalanches are to be expected. These can reach very large size. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases.

Single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily, including large ones. Remotely triggered avalanches are to be expected. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very dangerous. This also applies below the tree line.

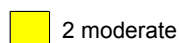
#### Gliding avalanches

In particular at low altitude gliding avalanches are to be expected. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

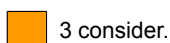
#### Danger levels



1 low



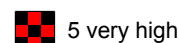
2 moderate



3 consider.



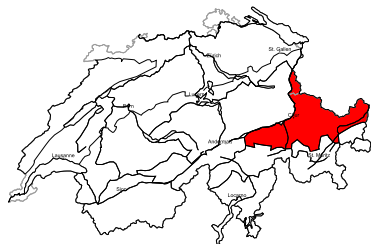
4 high



5 very high

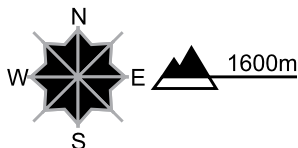
region B

Level 4, high



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

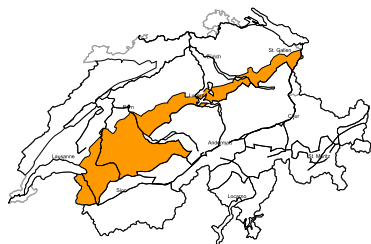
The danger exists in particular in alpine snow sports terrain. Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily, including large ones. Remotely triggered avalanches are to be expected. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very dangerous. This also applies below the tree line.

Gliding avalanches

In particular at low altitude gliding avalanches are to be expected. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

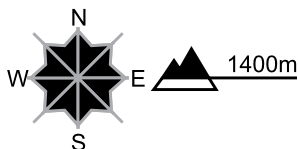
region C

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

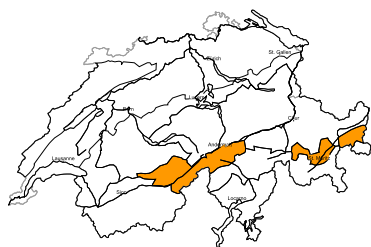
Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily, including large ones. Remotely triggered avalanches are to be expected. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Restraint is advisable on this first sunny day. This also applies below the tree line.

Gliding avalanches

In particular at low altitude gliding avalanches are to be expected. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

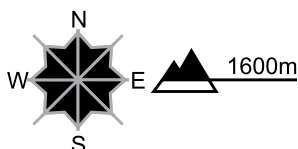
region D

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. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily, including large ones. Remotely triggered avalanches are to be expected. Whumphing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger.

Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Restraint is advisable on this first sunny day. This also applies below the tree line.

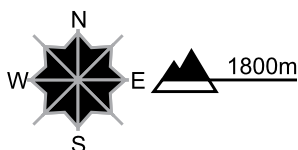
region E

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



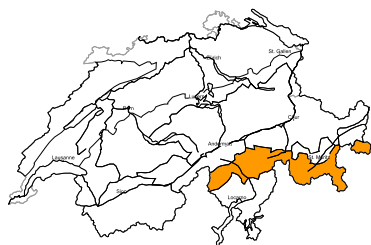
Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow of the last few days are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily. These can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are to be expected. Whumphing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger.

Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Restraint is advisable on this first sunny day.

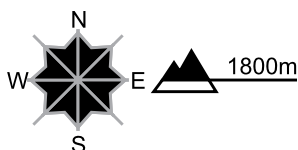
region F

Level 3, considerable



New snow and wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



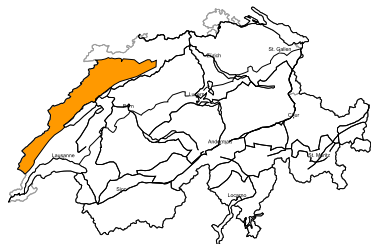
Danger description

The new snow of the last few days is lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. As a consequence of northerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones.

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

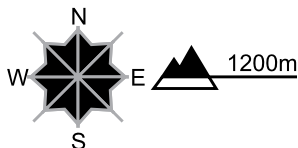
**region G**

**Level 3, considerable**



**New snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

The new snow and wind slabs 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 medium size. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

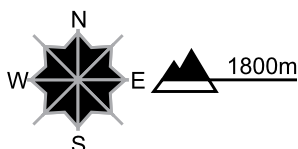
**region H**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, 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 careful route selection.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 15.1.2021, 17:00

### Snowpack

On Friday, a three-day round of large scale snowfall came to an end. At some automated weather stations in the Chur Rhine Valley, the largest amounts of fresh snowfall that have ever been measured over a three-day period were registered.

Prior to the current round of snowfall, the old snowpack surface was extremely loosely-packed over widespread areas and consisted of faceted, expansively metamorphosed snow crystals or surface hoar. Bonding to the huge amounts of fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts was, thus, extremely poor. In particular in the Valais and in Grisons, avalanches can fracture also down to more deeply embedded layers inside the old snowpack. During the last few days, a great many avalanche releases have been reported, including at intermediate altitudes. The avalanches did not have great voluminous masses, but frequently reached long runout paths. As of the termination of the precipitation, naturally triggered avalanche activity has decreased.

### Observed weather on Friday, 15.01.2021

Lots of fresh snowfall over widespread areas, heavy snowfall in the northern regions. The snowfall level in the western regions lay at approximately 1000 m, in the eastern regions snowfall extended down to low lying areas. During the course of the day, the intensity of precipitation slackened off, including in the northeastern regions, so that the three-day bout of precipitation finally rounded to a close. In the furthestmost southern regions it remained dry and even turned partly sunny starting at midday.

#### Fresh snow

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

- Warning region Hohgant, central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, Grisons north of the Anterior Rhine: 50 to 80 cm;
- remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Upper Valais, Gotthard region, northern Grisons, northern part of Lower Engadine: 30 to 50 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, 10 to 30 cm; in the furthestmost southern regions it remained dry.

All in all, during the three-day period of precipitation, the precipitation amounted to the following:

- northern Goms, Urner and Schwyzer Alps, eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons: 120 to 150 cm; more from place to place;
- remaining regions of the Main Alpine Ridge and of northern Upper Valais, northern part of central Grisons, Lower Engadine: 80 to 120 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 40 to 80 cm over widespread areas; in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, in the Moesano, in Val Bregaglia and in Val Poschiavo, less.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C.

#### Wind

- Winds on Thursday evening were still blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northwesterly directions;
- during the nighttime hours winds slackened off and during the daytime shifted to northerly, were blowing at light to moderate strength.

**Weather forecast** through Saturday, 16.01.2021

It will be predominantly sunny and cold. During the afternoon, high-altitude cloudbanks will move in from the west.

**Fresh snow**

-

**Temperature**

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in the southwestern regions and -11 °C in the northeastern regions.

**Wind**

- Winds at high altitudes will be blowing at moderate strength, in the southern and eastern regions intensifying to strong velocity, from northerly directions;
- at intermediate altitudes, light to moderate winds from varying directions.

**Outlook** through Monday, 18.01.2021

**Sunday**

As a result of strong-velocity westerly to northwesterly winds, snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. On the northern flank of the Alps, 10 to 30 cm of fresh snow is anticipated. In the furthestmost southern regions it will remain predominantly sunny.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches is not expected to change significantly in the northern regions. In the southern regions, danger levels will decrease. In those regions where the recent snowfall has been heaviest, increasingly frequent gliding avalanches and hillside snowslides can be expected.

**Monday**

It is expected to turn increasingly sunny from the west during the course of the day. In the southern regions it will be predominantly sunny.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches will decrease. In the regions where recent snowfall has been heaviest, continuing gliding avalanches and hillside snowslides can be expected at low and intermediate altitudes.