**Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 19 January 2021**

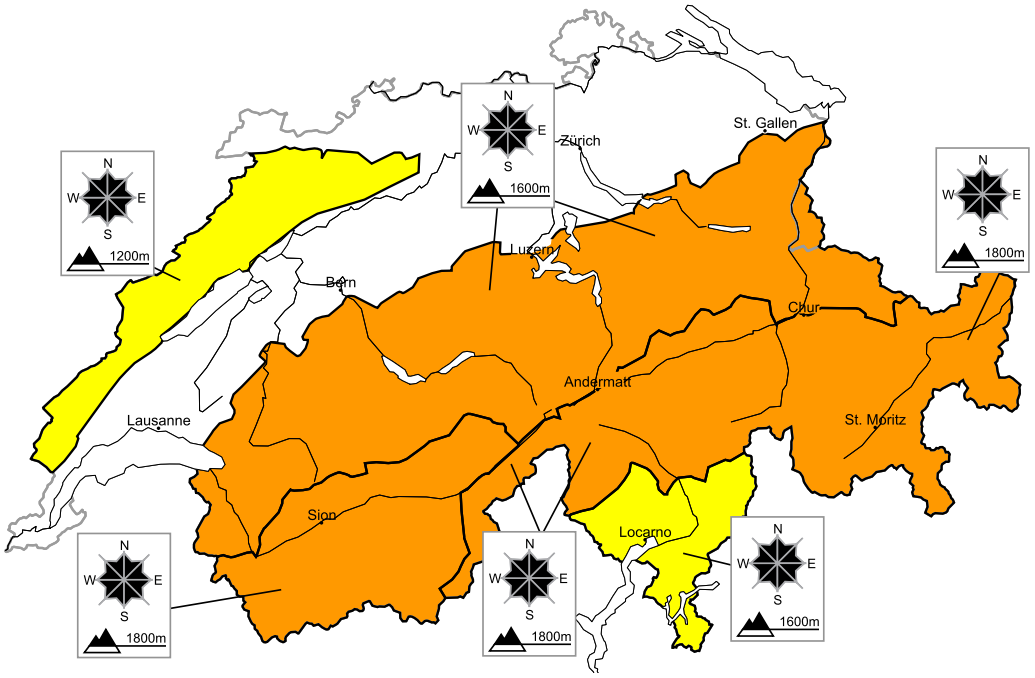
19.1.2021, 07:53

# Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

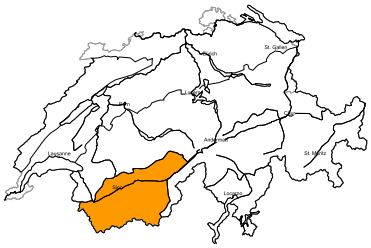
Edition: 19.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 19.1.2021, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 19.1.2021, 08:00

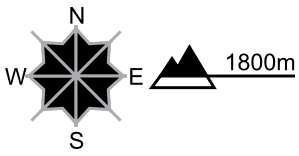



**region A** | **Level 3, considerable**



## Old snow, wind slabs

### Avalanche prone locations




### Danger description

The new snow of last week is lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. As a consequence of a strengthening westerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.
As a consequence of warming, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase a little. Individual natural avalanches are possible.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

## Gliding avalanches

At low and intermediate altitudes gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

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

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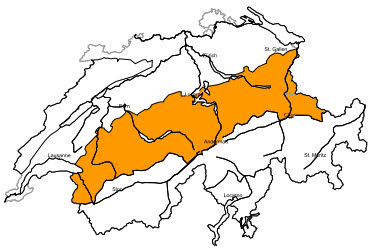
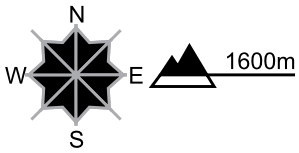
## region B — Level 3, considerable



### New snow, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

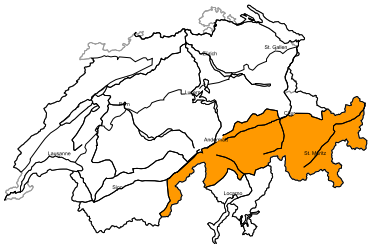
The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering. As a consequence of the strong wind the wind slabs will increase in size as the day progresses. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. To some extent avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack and reach large size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

As a consequence of warming, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase a little. Individual natural avalanches are possible.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

### Gliding avalanches

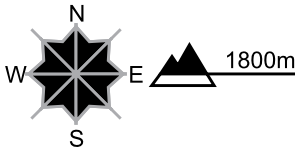
At low and intermediate altitudes gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

## region C — Level 3, considerable



### Old snow, wind slabs

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

As a consequence of a sometimes strong northerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last few days. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. In isolated cases these can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

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

### Gliding avalanches

At low and intermediate altitudes gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.



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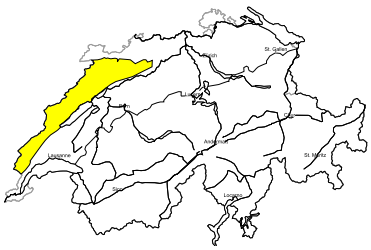
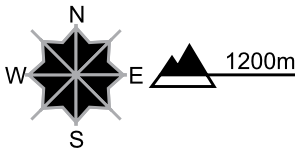
## region D — Level 2, moderate



### Wind slabs, old snow

**Avalanche prone locations**



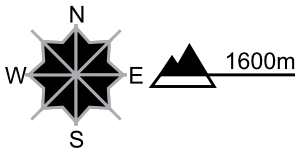

**Danger description**

The more recent wind slabs are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in deeper layers also. Caution is to be exercised on very steep shady slopes at elevated altitudes.
Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for defensive route selection.

## region E — Level 2, moderate

### Wind slabs

**Avalanche prone locations**




**Danger description**

As a consequence of northerly wind, clearly visible wind slabs formed in the last few days. These are in some cases still prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

### Gliding avalanches

On steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. Mostly they are small.



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# Snowpack and weather

updated on 18.1.2021, 17:00

## Snowpack

In many places, last week's snow is lying on a distinct weak layer at the interface with the old snowpack, including below the tree line. In particular in the regions where relatively little fresh snow has fallen in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais, avalanches can still be released in this layer. In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, the old snow is often covered by thick layers of snow and therefore less prone to triggering. In particular in Valais, the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and, in isolated cases, in Grisons as well, avalanches can also be released near the ground in the old snow.
The weekend's fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering. On Tuesday, the westerly wind will transport loosely bonded near-surface snow, and further snow drift accumulations will form.

## Observed weather on Monday, 18.01.2021

On Sunday night, snow fell in the north and east, even at low altitudes. During the day, the north and east were cloudy at first and a little further snow fell. As the day progressed, it became increasingly sunny from the west in the mountains. In Valais and Ticino it was mostly sunny.

**Fresh snow**
From Sunday evening until Monday midday, 15 to 30 cm of snow fell over a wide area in the regions north of a line between the Rhone and Rhine, and up to 40 cm fell from the eastern Bernese Alps into the Glarus Alps. Since precipitation commenced on Saturday evening, the following aggregate amounts of snow fell in the period to midday on Monday:

- Northern flank of the Alps from Les Diablerets into Alpstein excluding Urseren, northern Lower Valais, Prättigau: 30 to 50 cm, but up to 70 cm in the Central Swiss and Glarus Alps
- Jura, rest of both the northern flank of the Alps and the Gotthard region, rest of Lower Valais, northern Upper Valais, northern Grisons excluding Prättigau, Lower Engadine: 15 to 30 cm
- Elsewhere: a few centimetres, but remaining dry to the south of the main Alpine ridge

**Temperature**
At midday at 2000 m: between -9 °C in the north and -6 °C in the south

**Wind**

- On Sunday night: in the Simplon region, central part of the main Alpine ridge and Jura, moderate to strong, otherwise light to moderate from the northwest
- During the day: easing and mostly light to moderate from the northwest

## Weather forecast through Tuesday, 19.01.2021

The north will be quite sunny with cloudbanks. The south will be mostly sunny at first, but cloud will build up in the afternoon. Temperatures will rise in the north.

**Fresh snow**
-

**Temperature**

- In the north, increasing significantly; at midday at 2000 m: between 0 °C in the west and -2 °C in the east
- In the south at midday at 2000 m: about -4 °C

**Wind**
Backing from northwest to west, strengthening and moderate to strong as the day progresses

# Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 19 January 2021



## Outlook through Thursday, 21.01.2021

**Wednesday**

The north will be mostly sunny with cloudbanks. There will be a strong southwesterly wind at elevated altitudes. In the northern valleys exposed to the foehn, a strong south foehn will develop as the day progresses, becoming storm force towards the evening. The south will be bright at first, before becoming increasingly cloudy as the day progresses. The avalanche danger will increase as a consequence of fresh snow drift accumulations, in particular in the west and north.

**Thursday**

As consequence of the foehn storm, the exposed regions will be partly sunny, otherwise mostly cloudy. On the main Alpine ridge and to the south, it will be very cloudy with precipitation. The snowfall level will be 500 to 800 m. In the south, the avalanche danger will increase as a consequence of fresh snow. In the north, it may increase a little further during Wednesday night.