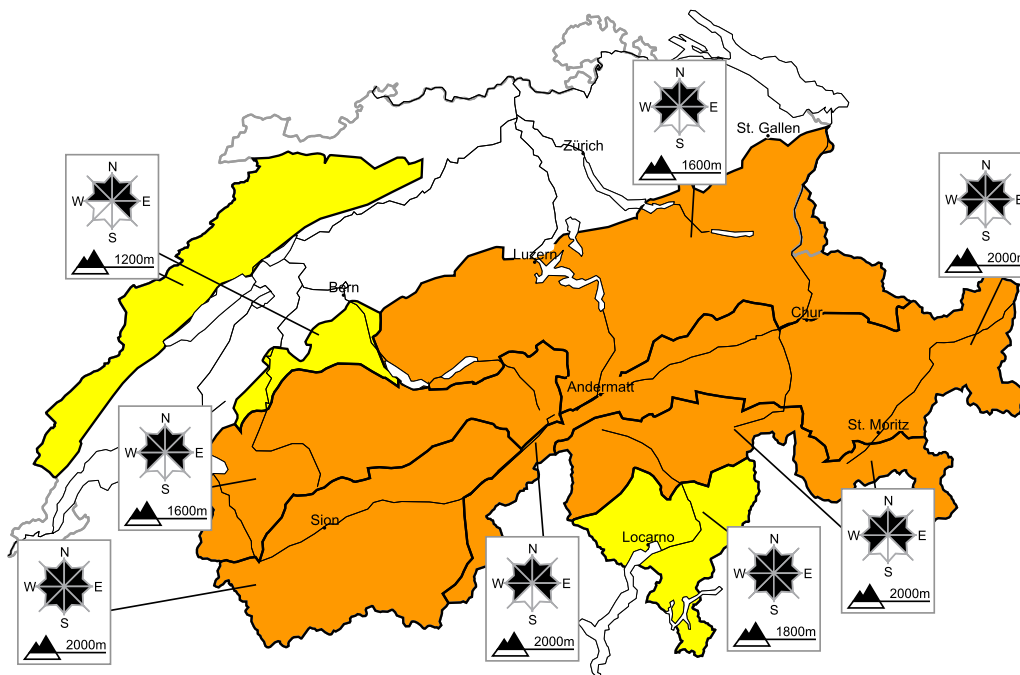


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 21.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 21.1.2021, 17:00

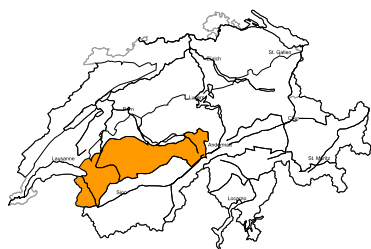
Avalanche danger

updated on 21.1.2021, 08:00



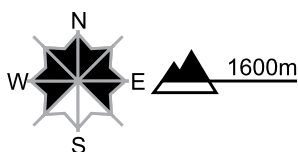
region A

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong southwesterly wind, large wind slabs formed. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. In the regions exposed to the foehn wind individual natural avalanches are possible. To some extent avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers and reach large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Gliding avalanches

On steep south facing slopes medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered occasionally.

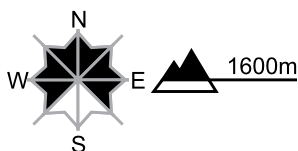
region B

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong southwesterly wind, large wind slabs formed. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. In the regions exposed to the foehn wind individual natural avalanches are possible. In isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers and reach large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Gliding avalanches

On steep south facing slopes medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered occasionally.

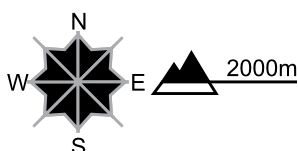
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

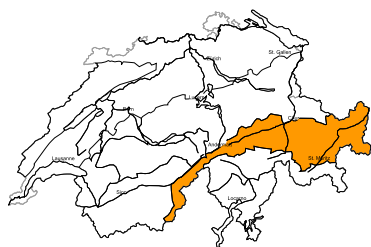
Avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. In addition avalanche prone wind slabs formed. In the regions exposed to the foehn wind individual 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

On steep south facing slopes individual medium-sized gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible.

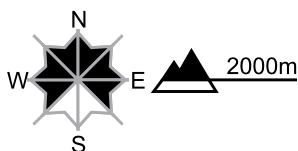
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong southwesterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed. In the regions exposed to the foehn wind individual natural avalanches are possible. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. In isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size. Whumping sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

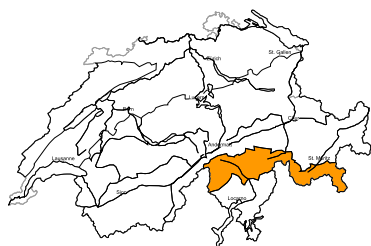
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

On steep south facing slopes individual medium-sized gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible.

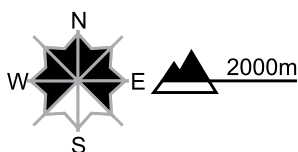
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

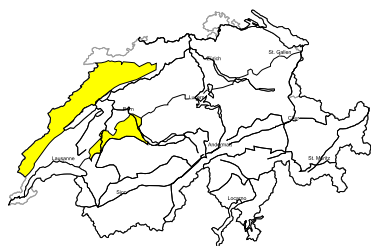


Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. They can reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

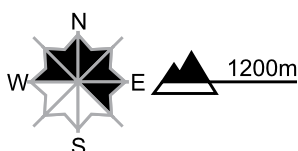
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older 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.

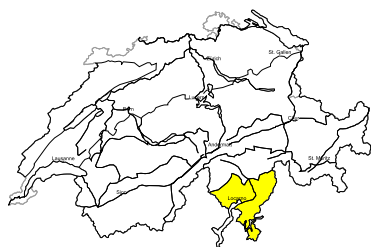
Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for defensive route selection.

Gliding avalanches

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

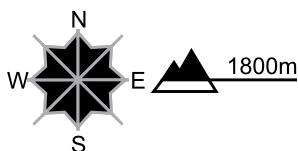
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and southerly wind, small wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes. The avalanche danger will increase a little during the day. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

Snowpack and weather

updated on 20.1.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong-velocity southwesterly winds in some places, snowdrift accumulations which were frequently wide-ranging and compact were generated on the northern flank of the Alps in particular. These snowdrift accumulations will continue to grow further in size until Thursday evening. The snowdrift accumulations can be very easily triggered. The layer of fresh snow and fresh snowdrifts from last week have in many places been deposited on top of a markedly weak layer, even extending to below the timberline. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps this weak layer is often heavily blanketed with fresh snow and is thereby by less prone to triggering. Particularly in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in Grisons, as well as in general in areas where the snow is shallow, avalanches can still be triggered in this layer. In addition, avalanches can also fracture down to ground-level layers in those regions and subsequently grow to large size. On the southern flank of the Alps the snowpack structuring is more favourable. Fractures deeper down inside the snowpack are hardly anticipated.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 20.01.2021

In the eastern regions and the Valais it was partly sunny, accompanied by cloudbanks. In the other regions of Switzerland skies were predominantly overcast.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, in the northern regions at 0 °C, in the foehn-exposed regions at +2 °C, in the southern regions at -6 °C.

Wind

- Winds in the northern regions were blowing at moderate to strong velocity from southwesterly directions; in the Alpine valleys, strong foehn wind;
- in the southern regions winds were blowing at light strength from the southwest.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 21.01.2021

In the foehn-exposed regions it will be partly sunny, in the other regions of Switzerland predominantly overcast. In the Jura region, a small amount of snowfall is expected in summit regions during the afternoon. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, skies will be heavily overcast during the daytime, accompanied by precipitation. The snowfall level will lie at approximately 500 m.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon:

- Main Alpine Ridge from Nufenen into the Bernina region as well as southwards therefrom, above 500 m: 10 to 20 cm, in the Bernina region up to 30 cm;
- Jura region, western part of Main Alpine Ridge above 1500 m: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the western regions and +2 °C in the eastern regions, and -4 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be southwesterly:

- on the Main Alpine Ridge and northwards therefrom, blowing at strong to storm-strength;
- in the Alpine valleys, strong to storm-strength southerly foehn wind, slackening off during the afternoon;
- in the Jura region, winds will be stormy;
- in the southern regions, moderate-strength winds at high altitudes.

Outlook through Saturday, 23.01.2021

Friday

In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, it will be partly sunny and generally dry. In the other regions of Switzerland, skies will be overcast. Above 1000 m, intermittent snowfall is anticipated, intensive in the Bernina region on Thursday night. In the northern regions, a strong to storm-velocity westerly wind will be blowing.

As a result of fresh snow, avalanche danger levels are expected to increase in the western and southern regions. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.

Saturday

In the eastern regions there will be sunny intervals to start with. Subsequently, precipitation will set in, also in the other regions. The snowfall level will extend down to low lying areas. In the southern regions the precipitation is expected to come to an end during the course of the day. The amounts of expected precipitation are still uncertain.

Avalanche danger levels are expected to increase a further notch in the western regions and on the southern flank of the Alps.