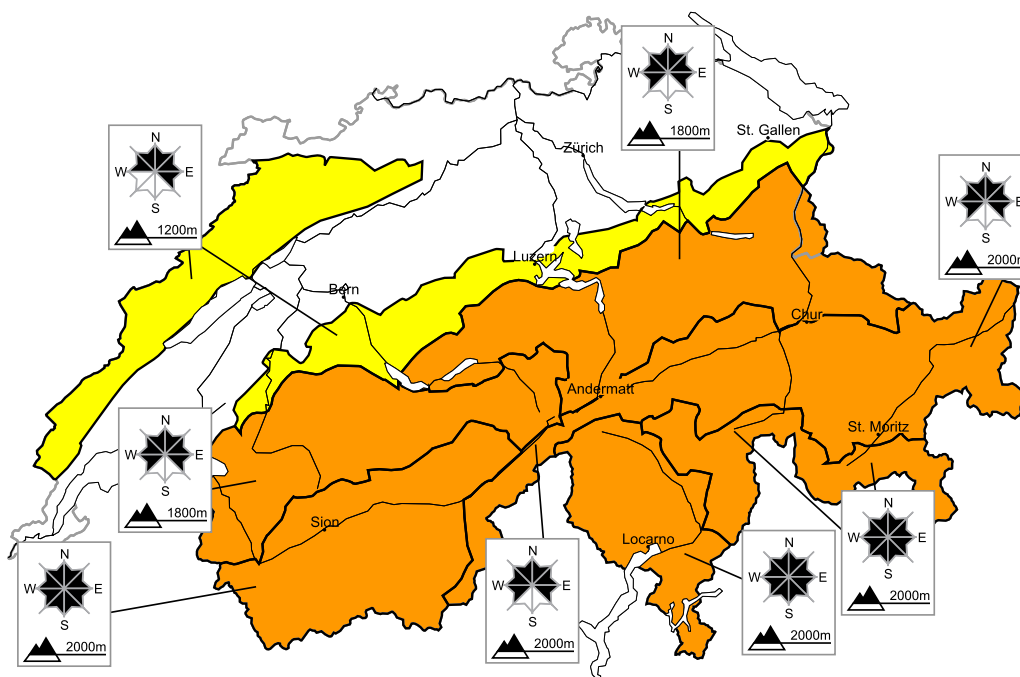


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 22.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 22.1.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 22.1.2021, 08:00



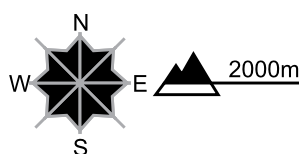
region A

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases. In Val Bregaglia, on the Corvatsch and on the Bernina natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

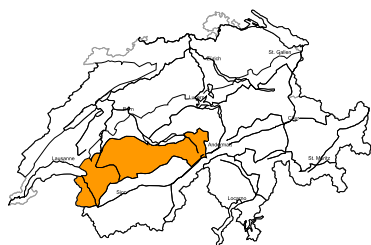


Danger description

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. As a consequence of new snow and wind, further wind slabs will form in some regions. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

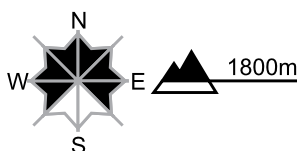
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong southwesterly wind, sometimes large wind slabs formed. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. 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.

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.



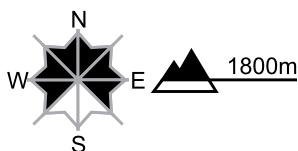
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong southwesterly wind, sometimes large wind slabs formed. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. In very isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers and reach large size. This applies in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.

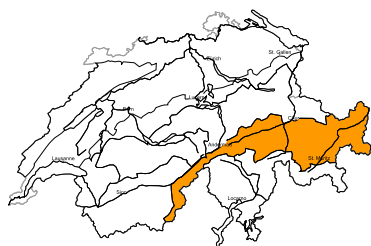
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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.

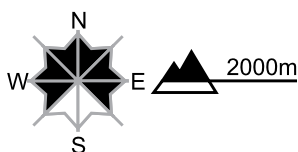
region E

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. 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. Whumpfung 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.

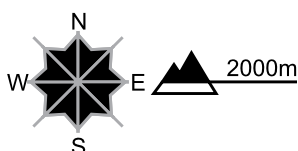
region F

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations

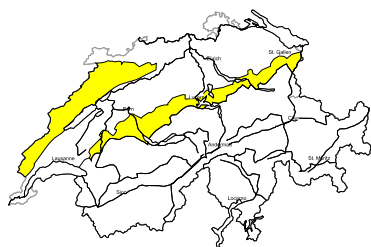


Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. At elevated altitudes the wind slabs are larger. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

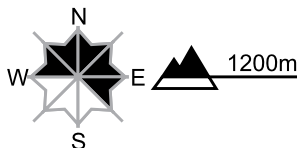
region G

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.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.1.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of storm-strength southwesterly winds in some places, wide-ranging and compactly-structured snowdrift accumulations were generated on Wednesday and on Thursday, particularly on the northern flank of the Alps. These drifted masses are stabilising to an increasing degree.

As a result of fresh snow and, in some regions, strong velocity winds, easily triggered snowdrift accumulations are being generated particularly at high altitudes on the southern flank of the Alps and in the western regions.

In the middle part of the snowpack there is, in many places, a strikingly weak layer which is prevalent even below the timberline. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps this weak layer is frequently blanketed by deep snow, and thus, is unlikely to trigger. Particularly in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in Grisons, as well as in general wherever the snow is shallow, avalanches can ongoingly fracture down to this deeply embedded layer inside the snowpack. In addition, in these regions avalanches can also fracture down to ground-level layers of the old snow and thereby grow to large size. On the southern flank of the Alps the snowpack layering is more favourable. Fractures deeper down in the snowpack are not expected.

Observed weather on Thursday, 21.01.2021

In the foehn-exposed regions there were bright intervals. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, skies were predominantly overcast. In the Jura region there was a small amount of rainfall in the afternoon. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, skies were heavily overcast, accompanied by precipitation.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon above 500 m:

- Main Alpine Ridge from the Nufenen into the Bernina region and southwards therefrom: 10 to 25 m.
- in the other regions of Switzerland it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, the temperature in northern regions was measured at -1 °C, in the foehn-exposed regions at +2 °C, and in the southern regions at -5 °C.

Wind

Winds were southwesterly, with southerly foehn wind in the Alpine valleys,

- blowing at moderate to strong velocity, intermittently blowing at storm strength in the Jura region and on the northern flank of the Alps;
- in the southern regions blowing at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Friday, 22.01.2021

During the night in the western and the southern regions there will be precipitation. During the daytime, it will be predominantly dry to start with. On the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons there will be sunny intervals, in the remaining regions of Switzerland skies will be overcast. In the western and the southern regions, precipitation will set in anew during the afternoon. The snowfall level in the western regions will lie at 1200 m, in the southern regions the snowfall will extend down to low lying areas.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday evening above 1500 m:

- Main Alpine Ridge from San Bernardino into the Bernina region: 20 to 40 cm, in the Bernina region itself as much as 50 cm;
- remaining parts of the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps, northern and furthestmost western part of Lower Valais: 15 to 30 cm;
- western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, western part of Jura region, remaining parts of the Valais, of the Gotthard region, central Grisons and Upper Engadine: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, predominantly dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the northern regions and -4 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be southwesterly, in the Alpine valleys southerly foehn wind is anticipated,

- on the Main Alpine Ridge and northwards therefrom: blowing predominantly at strong velocity, intermittently reaching storm-strength; in the afternoon slackening off;
- in the southern regions blowing at light to moderate strength.

Outlook through Sunday, 24.01.2021

Saturday

On Friday night, snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas. The snowfall level will extend down to low lying areas. During the daytime on Saturday it will remain predominantly dry and turn intermittently sunny. In the western regions, cloud cover will increase during the afternoon.

Avalanche danger levels are expected to increase somewhat over widespread areas. In particular in the Lower Valais and in the Upper Engadine, naturally triggered avalanches can be expected.

Sunday

On Saturday night, precipitation is anticipated over widespread areas. Only in the furthestmost southern regions will it remain dry. During the daytime on Sunday, skies will be predominantly overcast but it will remain dry.

Avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.