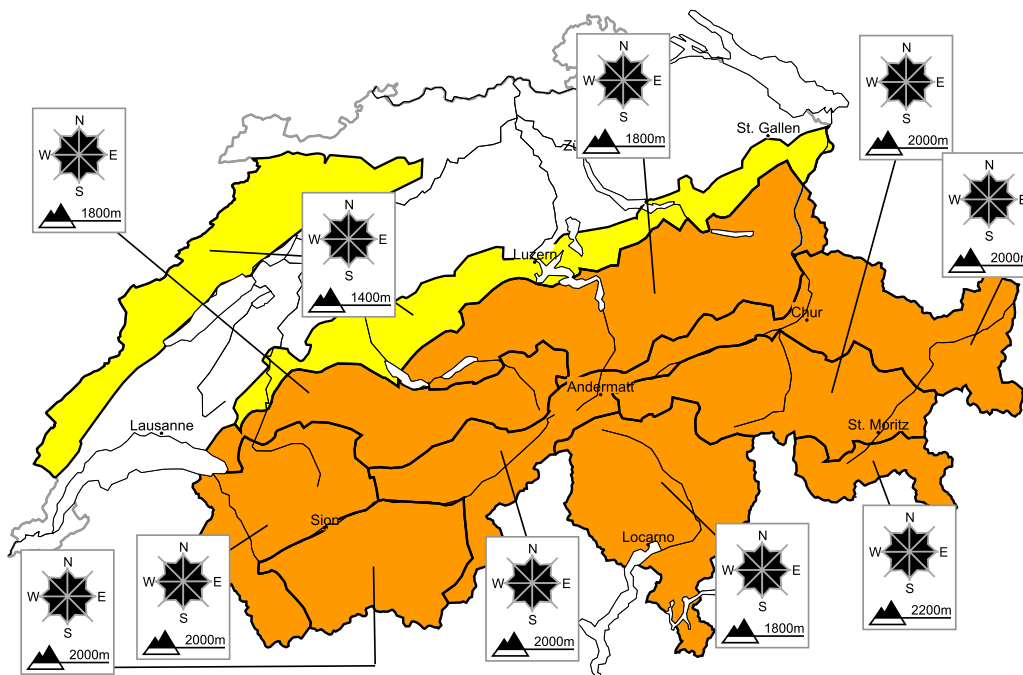


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 23.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 23.1.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 23.1.2021, 08:00

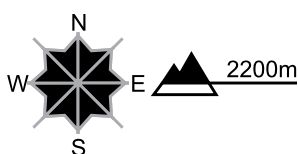


region A **Level 3, considerable**



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow of the last three days represents the main danger. Additionally in some places avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers and reach large size. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches very easily. In the course of the day the natural avalanche activity will decrease. Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint are required.

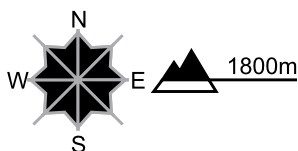
region B

Level 3, considerable



New snow and wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

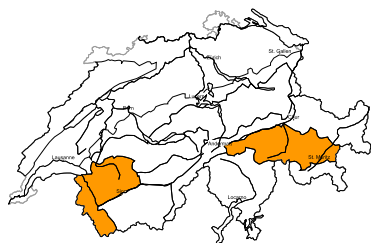


Danger description

The new snow of the last three days represents the main danger. As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, sometimes large wind slabs formed. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

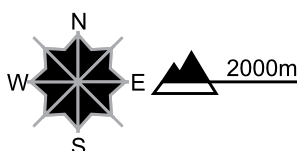
region C

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs can be released easily, even by a single winter sport participant,. Additionally in some places avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers and reach dangerously large size. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

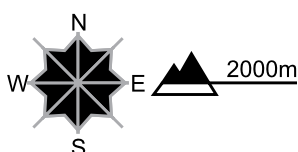
region D

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. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. 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 formed in some regions. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

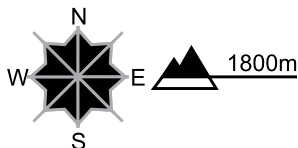
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes strong wind from westerly directions, avalanche prone 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.

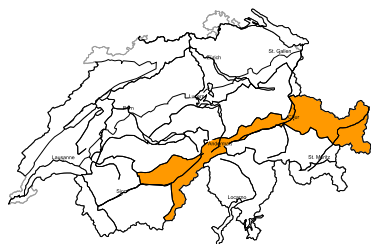
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

On steep south facing slopes medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

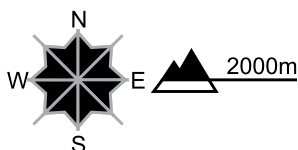
region F

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes strong wind from westerly directions, avalanche prone 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.

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

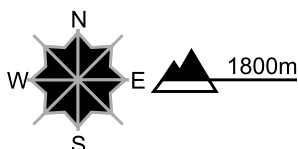
region G

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes strong wind from westerly directions, avalanche prone wind slabs formed. These represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.

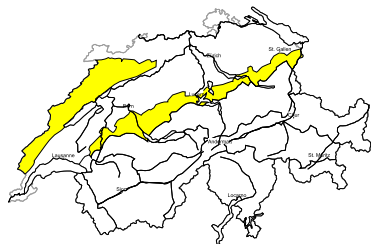
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

On steep south facing slopes medium-sized gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

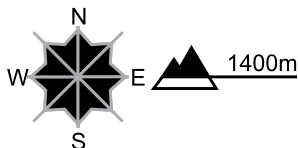
region H

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and wind from westerly directions, wind slabs formed. These 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.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

Snowpack and weather

updated on 22.1.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of fresh snow and moderate-to-strong velocity winds, snowdrift accumulations are being generated which are easily prone to triggering. In addition, large-sized snowdrift accumulations have formed over the last three days which are still prone to triggering on the northern flank of the Alps in particular. They are being blanketed by fresh snowfall and are, thus, no longer easy to recognize.

In the middle and lower parts of the snowpack there are marked weak layers in many regions, extending to below the treeline. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps this weak layer is often deeply blanketed with fresher snow and for that reason, unlikely to still trigger. Particularly in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in Grisons, as well as in general in all areas where the snow is shallow, avalanches can still be triggered in this layer. On the southern flank of the Alps, the snowpack structure is more favourably layered. Fractures deeper down inside the snowpack are unlikely there.

Observed weather on Friday, 22.01.2021

During the night in the western and the southern regions, there was snowfall registered. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, skies were overcast, but it remained predominantly dry. During the daytime, skies brightened up somewhat. In the afternoon on the southern flank of the Alps and in the Jura region, snowfall set in once again. The snowfall level lay at 500 m in the southern regions, in the western regions between 1000 and 1500 m.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday midday and Friday afternoon:

- Main Alpine Ridge from San Bernardino as far as Bernina Pass, Moesano, Sotto Ceneri, Vaud Alps, northern and furthest western parts of Lower Valais: 15 to 30 cm;
- bordering regions and the western part of the Jura region: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, it remained predominantly dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +1 °C in the northern regions and -4 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds on the southern flank of the Alps were blowing at light to moderate strength, in the other regions frequently at strong velocity from southerly directions.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 23.01.2021

During the nocturnal hours, snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas. The snowfall level will extend down to low lying areas. Following the withdrawal of the last cloudbanks it will be quite sunny during the daytime hours. In the afternoon, precipitation will recommence from the west.

Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, above 1500 m:

- Main Alpine Ridge from San Bernardino into the Bernina region, as well as southwards therefrom: 30 to 40 cm; in Val Bregaglia and the Bernina region as much as 50 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland: 15 to 30 cm over widespread areas;
- only in the eastern part of the Jura region and in central Valais: 5 to 15 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C in the northern regions and -4 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds in the northern regions will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northwesterly directions, during the daytime from southwesterly directions. Subsequently winds will shift to westerly, during the afternoon blowing at strong velocity;
- on the southern flank of the Alps, strong-velocity northerly winds during the night, during the daytime slackening off significantly.

Outlook through Monday, 25.01.2021

Sunday

On Saturday night, intermittent precipitation is anticipated, accompanied by moderate to strong-velocity westerly winds. The snowfall level will extend down to low lying areas. Only in the furthestmost southern regions is it expected to remain dry. During the daytime skies will be predominantly overcast but it will remain dry. Avalanche danger levels are expected to decrease in the southern regions, in the other regions of Switzerland avalanche danger will not change significantly.

Monday

Skies will be heavily overcast for the most part. Precipitation is anticipated over widespread areas, with the focal point on the northern flank of the Alps and in the regions along the French border. The snowfall level will extend down to low lying areas. In the southern regions it will be partly sunny and it will remain dry. Avalanche danger levels are expected to increase somewhat as a result of fresh fallen snow in northern regions. On the southern flank of the Alps, avalanche danger will incrementally decrease.