Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 24 January 2021

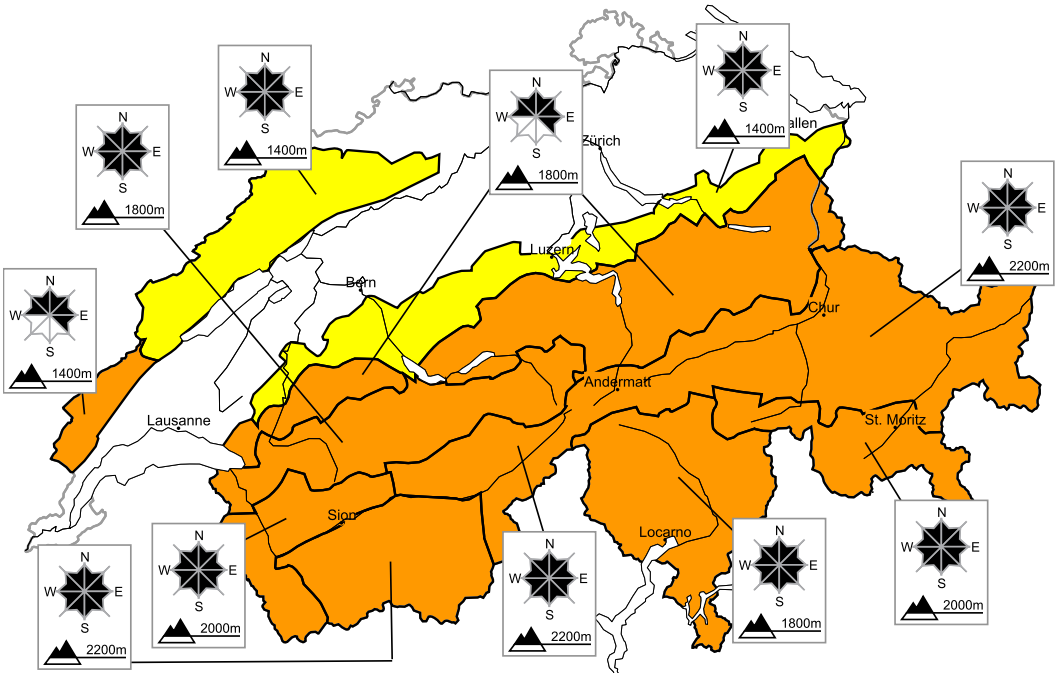
24.1.2021, 07:50

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 24.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 24.1.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

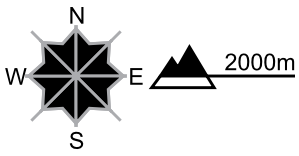
updated on 24.1.2021, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



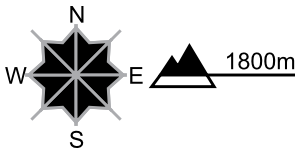
Danger description

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. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region B — Level 3, considerable

New snow and wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last four days represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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

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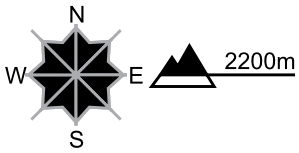
region C — Level 3, considerable

Old snow

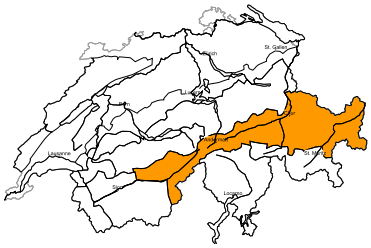
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

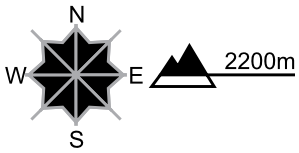
Distinct weak layers exist deep in the snowpack in all aspects. Avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfing sounds and released avalanches have confirmed a dangerous avalanche situation.
Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint are required.

region D — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



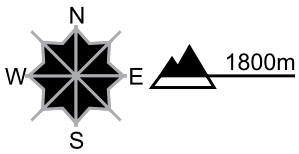
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes strong wind from westerly directions, wind slabs formed on Saturday. Additionally in some places avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region E — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs, old snow

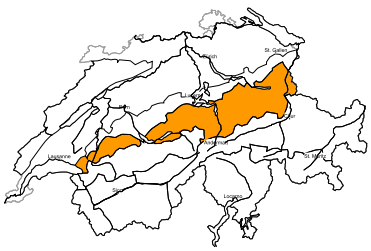
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

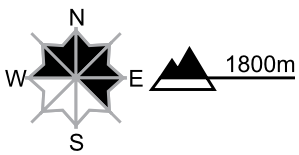
The wind slabs of the last two days represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers and reach large size.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region F — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



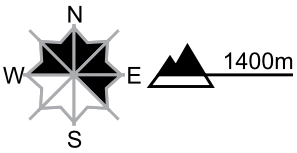
Danger description

The wind slabs of the last two days 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.

region G — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

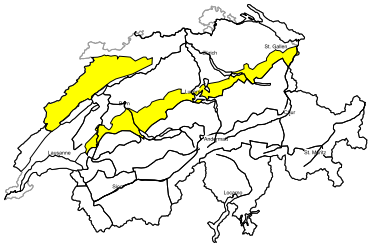
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

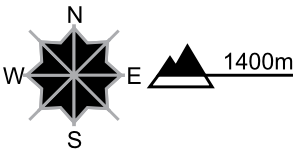
As a consequence of new snow and wind from westerly directions, avalanche prone wind slabs formed. These are to be bypassed in steep terrain.
Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

region H — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are rather 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 careful route selection.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 23.1.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

Fresh snow and snowdrifts from Friday and Saturday are still prone to triggering in some places.
In the middle and lower parts of the snowpack there is a markedly weak layer in many regions. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps this weak layer is frequently covered over with a deep layer, making it 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 wherever the snowpack is shallow, avalanches can still be triggered from this weak layer. Remote triggerings are still possible, particularly in central Valais. On the southern flank of the Alps the snowpack structuring is more favourable. Fractures deeper down inside the snowpack are no longer likely there.

Observed weather on Saturday, 23.01.2021

During the night there was intermittent snowfall registered; the snowfall was persistent on the southern flank of the Alps and in the Upper Engadine. The snowfall level descended down to low lying areas. During the daytime in the western regions it was intermittently sunny, in the other regions of Switzerland skies were predominantly overcast. During the afternoon, snowfall recommenced from the west.

Fresh snow

During the night above 1500 m:
- southern flank of the Alps, Main Alpine Ridge from San Bernardino as far as Bernina Pass: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, 10 to 20 cm over widespread areas, in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps as much as 30 cm.

Thus, the following amounts of snowfall have been registered at high altitudes since Wednesday afternoon:
- southern flank of the Alps, Main Alpine Ridge from San Bernardino as far as Bernina Pass: 40 to 70 cm;
- Fribourg Alps, Vaud Alps, Chablais, northern and furthermost western parts of Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 10 to 20 cm.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in the northern regions and -4 °C in the southern regions.

Wind
- Winds during the nocturnal hours were blowing intermittently at moderate to strong velocity from northwesterly directions, otherwise blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly directions;
- on the southern flank of the Alps, winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northerly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 24.01.2021

During the night, intermittent snowfall is anticipated. The snowfall level will extend down to low lying areas. Only on the southern flank of the Alps is it expected to remain dry. Following the dispersal of residual clouds it will become increasingly sunny in the northern regions, in the southern regions it will be quite sunny all day long.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday midday above 1000 m:
- furthermost western part of Lower Valais: 15 to 30 cm;
- northern flank of the Alps, Jura region, Valais, northern Prättigau: 5 to 15 cm; in the western Jura region and the Vaud Alps as much as 20 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; or else it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -9 °C.

Wind
- Winds on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Jura region and in general at high altitudes will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from westerly directions during the nighttime hours;
- Winds on the southern flank of the Alps will be blowing at moderate strength during the daytime, intermittently at strong velocity, from northerly directions;
- elsewhere winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength.

Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 24 January 2021

Outlook through Tuesday, 26.01.2021

Monday

On Sunday night and during the daytime on Monday, snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas, the focal point will be on the northern flank of the Alps and in Lower Valais. The snowfall level will extend down to low lying areas. On the southern flank of the Alps it will remain predominantly dry.
Avalanche danger levels will increase somewhat in the northern regions as a result of fresh snow; on the southern flank of the Alps avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Tuesday

On the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, an additional small amount of snowfall is anticipated; elsewhere it will be predominantly dry and quite sunny.
Avalanche danger levels are expected to decrease only incrementally.