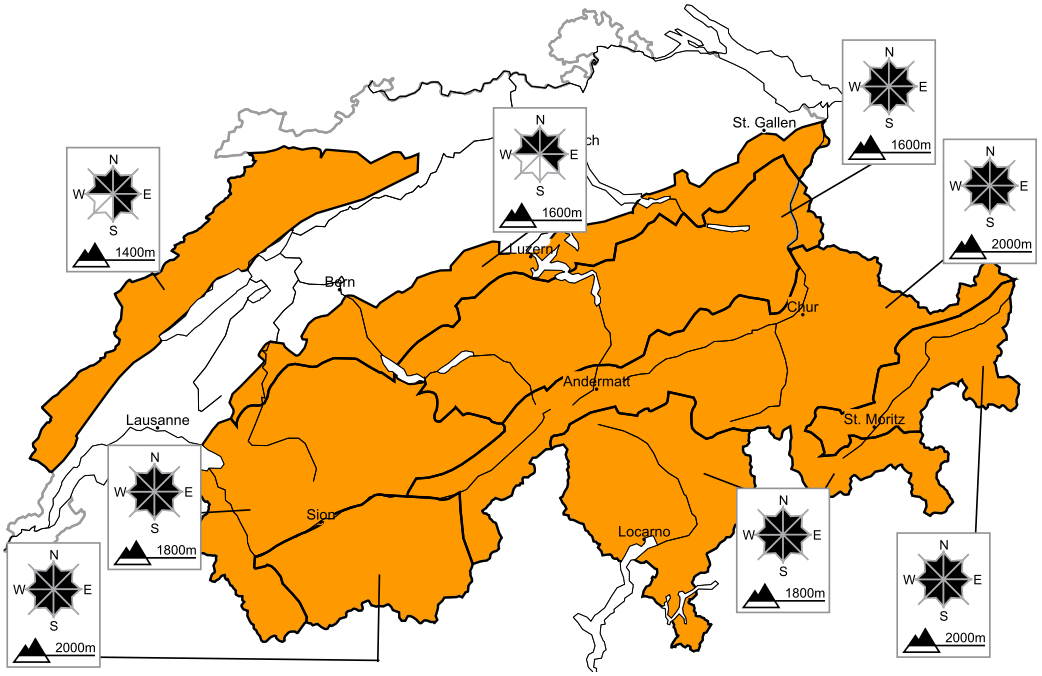
Considerable avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 26.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 26.1.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

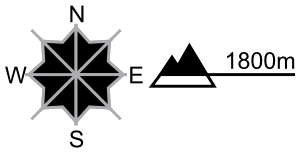
updated on 26.1.2021, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow of the last few days represent the main danger. In some places avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach large size. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

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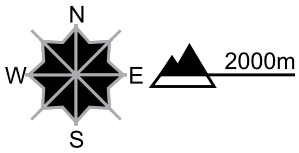
region B — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



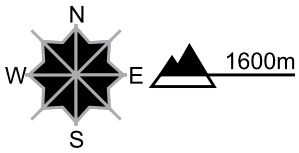
Danger description

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. Individual natural avalanches are possible.
In addition avalanche prone wind slabs formed. These are to be avoided in steep terrain.
Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint are required.

region C — Level 3, considerable

New snow

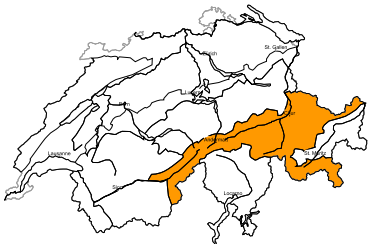
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

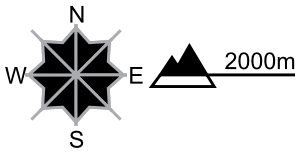
Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases. Natural avalanches are possible.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region D — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering. Additionally avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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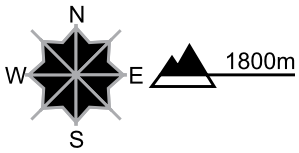
region E — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



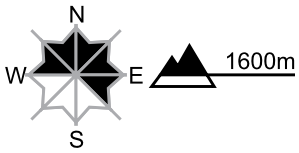
Danger description

The extensive wind slabs of the weekend represent the main danger. They can in some cases be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach large size in isolated cases. Fresh wind slabs are mostly only small. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region F — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

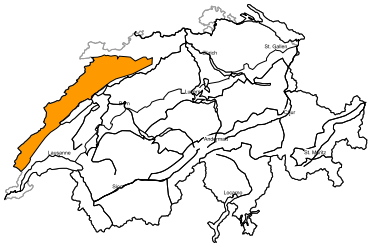
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

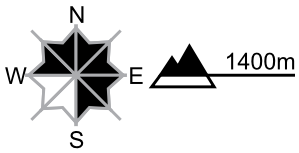
Fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. They are to be bypassed in steep terrain. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

region G — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. They are to be bypassed in steep terrain. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 25.1.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

Fresh snow and a moderate to strong westerly wind have given rise to sometimes large snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering, in particular in the west and north.
Underneath the wind slabs the bonding of the snowpack is unfavourable at high altitudes, in particular in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, in Valais and in Grisons. In these regions, distinct weak layers exist in the middle part and near the base of the snowpack in all aspects. Avalanches can be triggered in these layers and release the entire snowpack, in particular in places where relatively little snow is lying. Remote triggering has been observed in central Valais and in Upper Engadine in particular. These weak layers are still to be found in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps as well, but here they are mostly embedded deep and therefore unlikely to be released. On the southern flank of the Alps, the bonding of the snowpack is more favourable. Here, fractures are unlikely to occur deep in the snowpack.

Observed weather on Monday, 25.01.2021

During the night, snow began to fall down to low altitudes from the west. During the day, there was frequent snowfall in the north; it was sunny at times in the south.

Fresh snow
From Sunday evening until Monday afternoon:
· Vaud and Fribourg Alps, western Bernese Oberland, northern and extreme west of Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm
· Jura, rest of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Upper Valais, Verbier and Val d'Héréns regions: 15 to 30 cm
· Other regions: a few centimetres, remaining dry in the far south

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: about -10 °C

Wind
From the west
· In the west and north, moderate to strong, during the day, remaining mostly moderate
· In Grisons and Ticino, light to moderate

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 26.01.2021

During the night, the snowfall will ease from the west. In the morning, a little more snow will fall in the east, even at low altitudes. There will be bright spells as the day progresses. The west and south will be frequently sunny.

Fresh snow
From Monday afternoon until Tuesday afternoon:
· Northern Alpine ridge from the Haslital into Liechtenstein, northern Grisons: 10 to 20 cm, but up to 30 cm in some localities
· Rest of the northern flank of the Alps, central Grisons: 5 to 10 cm
· Elsewhere: a few centimetres, but remaining mostly dry on the southern flank of the Alps

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: about -11 °C

Wind
· At 2000 m in the north, mostly moderate from the west; in the south, strong from the north
· At 3000 m on the main Alpine ridge and in the east and south: strong, otherwise light to moderate from the northwest

Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 26 January 2021

Outlook through Thursday, 28.01.2021

Wednesday

In the north and Valais there will be frequent snowfall. By the evening, the snowfall level will rise towards 1000 m. The wind will be strong from the northwest. It will be quite sunny in the south.
The avalanche danger will increase in the north and in Valais. In Valais in particular, an increasing number of natural avalanches are to be expected. In the south the avalanche danger will change very little.

Thursday

In the west and north there will be frequent heavy precipitation. By the evening, the snowfall level will rise towards 2000 m in the west and 1600 m in the east. The westerly wind will be strong, and even storm force at elevated altitudes. It will be quite sunny in the south. The avalanche danger will increase significantly in the north and in Valais. Here, danger level 4 (high) is expected to be reached over a wide area. In the south the avalanche danger will change very little.