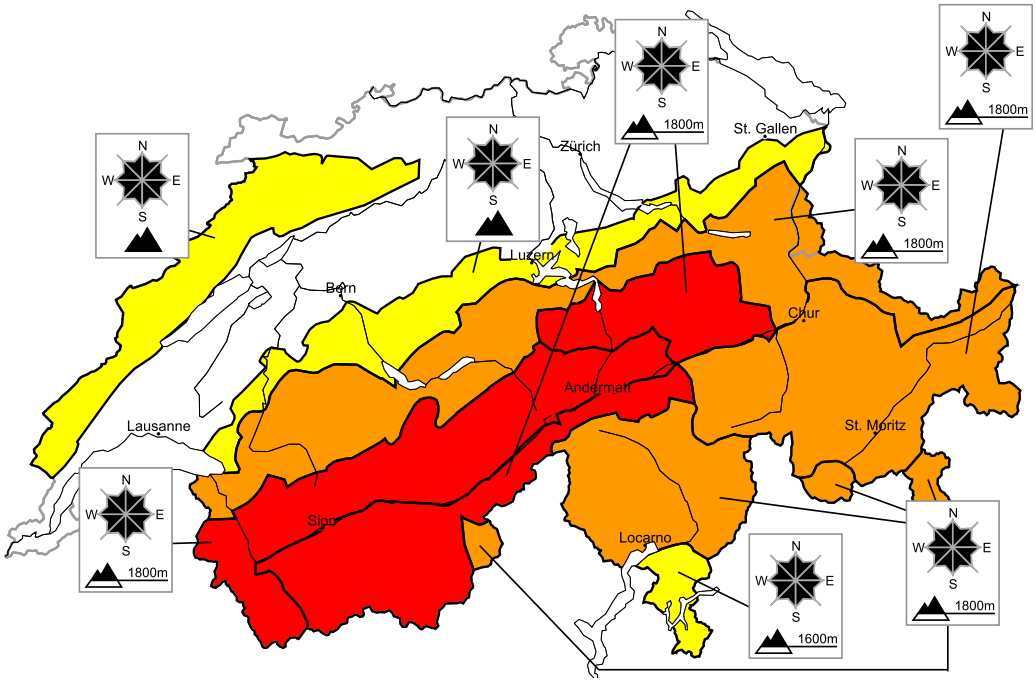
High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

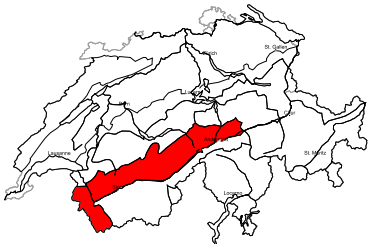
Edition: 30.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 30.1.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 30.1.2021, 08:00

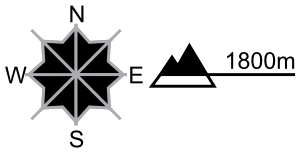


region A — Level 4, high



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. Additionally avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. Individual natural avalanches are to be expected. From starting zones where no previous releases have taken place in particular they can reach very large size. In the typical avalanche paths avalanches can reach as far as the valley bottom.
The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very dangerous. Exposed transportation routes are endangered. The instructions of the local authorities must be followed .

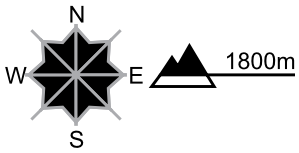
Wet avalanches

More medium-sized to large wet and gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m. Exposed transportation routes can be endangered.

region B — Level 4, high

New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



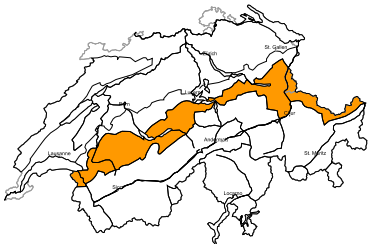
Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. Additionally avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. Individual natural avalanches are possible. From starting zones where no previous releases have taken place in particular avalanches can in isolated cases reach very large size. Exposed transportation routes can be endangered. Avalanches can be released by people and reach very large size. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very dangerous.

Wet avalanches

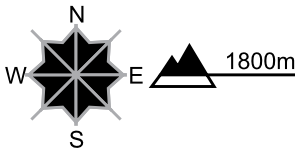
More medium-sized to large wet and gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m. Exposed transportation routes can be endangered.

region C — Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Backcountry touring calls for experience and restraint.

Wet avalanches

More medium-sized to large wet and gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m. Exposed transportation routes can be endangered.

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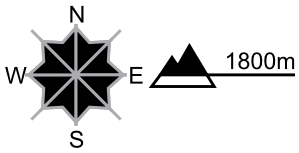
region D — Level 3, considerable

New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. Additionally avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger.
The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are critical.

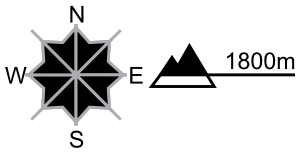
Wet avalanches

Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 1800 m.

region E — Level 3, considerable

New snow and wind slabs

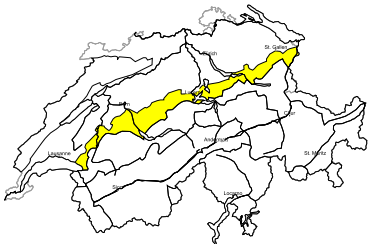
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

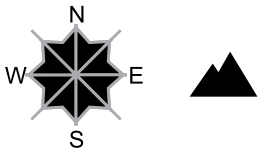
The new snow and wind slabs represent the main danger. As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, further wind slabs formed during the night. They are prone to triggering. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region F — Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a moderate to strong westerly wind, rather small wind slabs formed in particular in the vicinity of peaks. These are in some cases prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects above approximately 1800 m.
Below approximately 1800 m more small and medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised on steep slopes.

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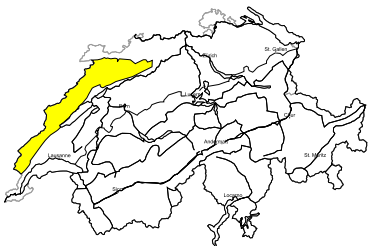
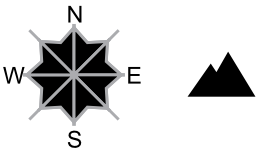
region G — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



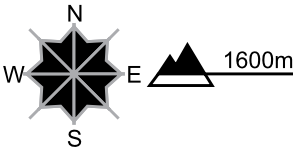
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a moderate to strong southwesterly wind, mostly small wind slabs formed in particular in the vicinity of peaks. These are in some cases prone to triggering. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on northwest to north to southeast facing aspects above approximately 1500 m.
Wet and gliding avalanches are still possible. These can also reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised on steep slopes.

region H — Level 2, moderate

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The older wind slabs are in some cases still prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence 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 29.1.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

The large amounts of fresh snow and snowdrifts are still prone to triggering. In the western and the northern regions, naturally triggered avalanches continue to be expected as a result of the precipitation. Avalanches can fracture in the old snowpack and sweep the entire snowpack along. From avalanche starting zones which have not yet discharged, avalanches can release and grow to very large size.
In the rimline regions of precipitation, in particular central Grisons and the Engadine, the weak layers inside the snowpack are not covered over as deeply as in the other regions of Switzerland. Avalanches can be easily triggered in the old snowpack and grow to large size.
In the southern regions the snowpack layering is more favourable; fractures in the old snowpack layers are unlikely.

Observed weather on Friday, 29.01.2021

There has been precipitation over widespread areas. In the furthermost northern regions and in the east there were isolated bright intervals during the afternoon. In the furthermost southern regions it remained dry and was partly sunny. The snowfall level during the nocturnal hours lay at approximately 2000 m in the western regions, in the other regions of Switzerland betwen 1500 and 1800 m. During the course of the day the snowfall level descended to approximately 1200 m.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 2000 m:

- northern Alpine Ridge, furthermost western part of Lower Valais, Upper Valais, Gotthard region: 25 to 40 cm, from place to place even more;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, 10 to 25 cm widespread, in the furthermost southern regions it remained predominantly dry.

Thus, since the beginning of this period of precipitation on Tuesday, the following overall amounts of fresh snow have been registered above 2000 m:

- northern Alpine Ridge, Upper Valais not including Simplon region, Gotthard region: 80 to 130 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 50 to 80 cm over widespread areas;
- central Ticino, Sotto Ceneri, southern valleys of Grisons, significantly less.

In the Jura region, approximately 60 to 80 mm of rainfall was registered overall.

Temperature

Temperatures descended: at midday at 2000 m, to approximately -2 °C in the northern regions and 0 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds in the northern regions were blowing predominantly at strong to storm strength, in the southern regions at moderate strength, from the northwest.

Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 30 January 2021

Weather forecast through Saturday, 30.01.2021

In the early part of the night, intensive precipitation is anticipated in the northern regions and in the Valais in particular. Following a brief interim in precipitation, including bright intervals in the southern and the eastern regions in particular, precipitation will recommence in the western regions starting in the morning hours. The snowfall level will lie at approximately 1200 m during the nighttime hours. During the afternoon, it will increase to approximately 1500 m in the western regions. In the furthermost southern regions it is expected to remain dry.

Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above 1800 m:

- furthermost western part of Lower Valais, northern Alpine Ridge: 20 to 40 cm, as much as 60 cm from place to place;
- remaining parts of Valais, regions north of the northern Alpine Ridge, Prättigau, Silvretta, Samnaun: 15 to 30 cm;
- remaining parts of the Alps, together with the Jura region, 5 to 15 cm over widespread areas; in the furthermost southern regions, less.

Temperature

Temperatures during the course of the day will increase: at midday at 2000 m to between 0 °C in the western regions and -2 °C in the southern and eastern regions.

Wind

- Winds will be blowing at strong to storm strength from westerly to northwesterly directions, slackening off during the daytime;
- in the southern regions, light southwesterly winds are anticipated during the daytime hours; in the Alpine valleys of the north, strong-velocity foehn winds in some places during the afternoon.

Outlook through Monday, 01.02.2021

Sunday

On Saturday night, further snowfall is expected above approximately 1200 m. During the morning on Sunday, the precipitation will come to an end, starting in the west, and it will become increasingly sunny. Winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength from western directions.
In the southern regions it will be quite sunny as a result of the intermittently strong-velocity northerly winds.
Avalanche danger levels are expected to gradually decrease.

Monday

In the western and the northern regions, renewed snowfall is expected above approximately 1200 m. The forecast regarding amounts of expected fresh snow are still uncertain.
Depending on the amounts of fresh fallen snow, avalanche danger levels could possibly increase again. In the southern regions, avalanche danger levels will incrementally decrease.