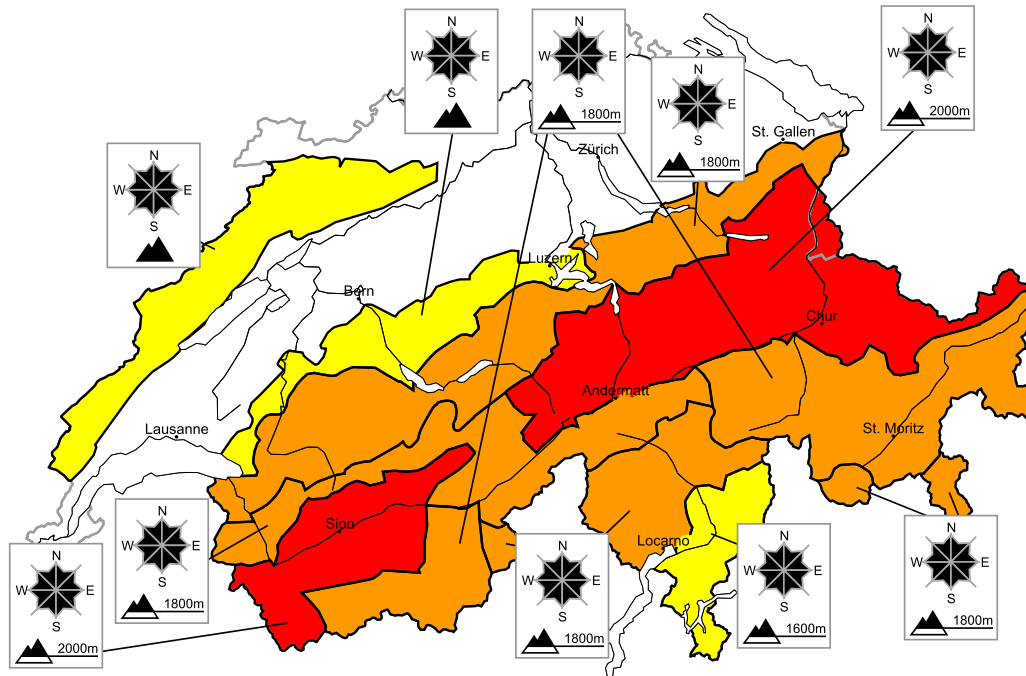


High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

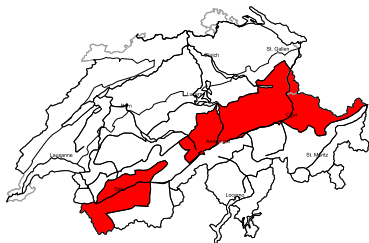
Edition: 31.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 31.1.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 31.1.2021, 08:00

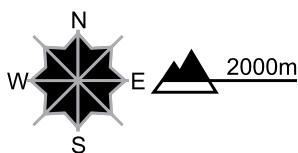


region A Level 4, high



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 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 in some places be released by people and reach very large size. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are dangerous.

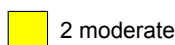
Wet avalanches

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

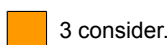
Danger levels



1 low



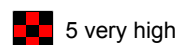
2 moderate



3 consider.



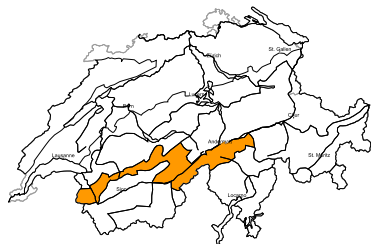
4 high



5 very high

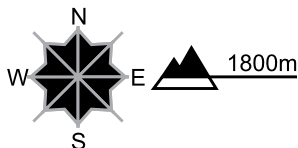
region B

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are in some cases still prone to triggering. Additionally avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. Only isolated natural avalanches are possible. From starting zones where no previous releases have taken place in particular they can reach very large size. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered occasionally.

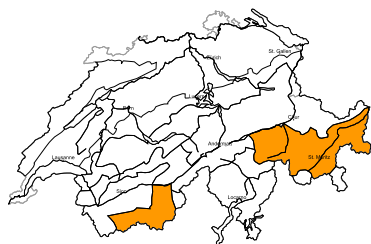
Avalanches can in some places be released by people and reach dangerously large size. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very critical.

Wet avalanches

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

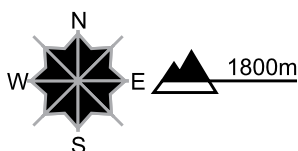
region C

Level 3, considerable



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

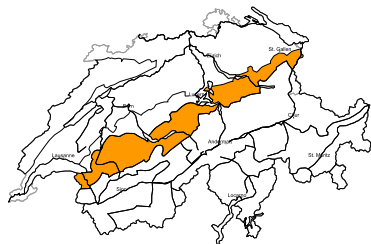
The snowpack will be unstable. Avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Individual natural avalanches are possible. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are dangerous.

Wet avalanches

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

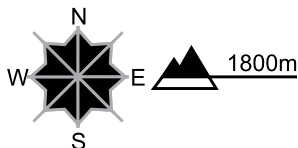
region D

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. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches

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

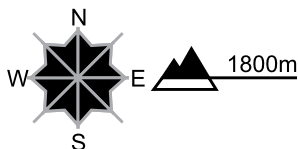
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

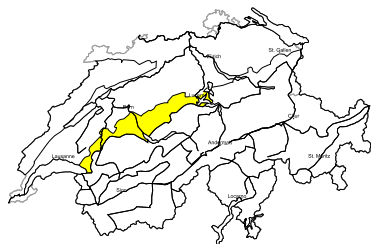
The fresh and older wind slabs represent the main danger. They are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

Individual large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

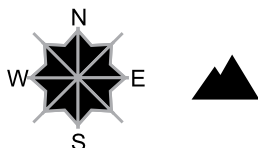
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations

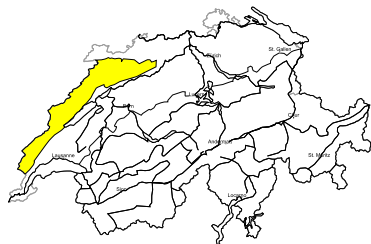


Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and westerly wind, rather small wind slabs formed in the last few days. 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.

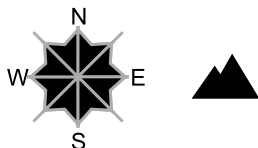
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs are to be found in particular in the vicinity of peaks. These are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular 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.

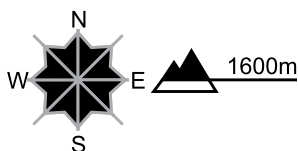
region H

Level 2, moderate



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In some places avalanches can be released in near-surface layers. Older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Avalanches can reach medium size in isolated cases. Careful route selection is recommended.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 30.1.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

The large amounts of freshly fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrifts from last week are stabilizing to an increasing extent. Beneath the thick layers of fresh snow there are prominent weak layers, particularly in the Valais and in Grisons. These layers are prone to triggering in some places. In Grisons on Saturday, numerous avalanche releases were reported which fractured down to the old snowpack layers and frequently grew to large size. Particularly in places where the snowpack is relatively shallow, the weak layers are still prone to triggering.

In the southern regions, the snowpack structuring is more favourable and fractures in the old snowpack layers are unlikely. Following the huge amounts of precipitation of the last week, the snow depths throughout the Swiss Alps are greater than average, further to the east they are far greater than average. Within four days, between Tuesday midday and Saturday morning in the Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and in the northern Ticino, there was more than 80 cm of fresh snow registered. On the northern Alpine Ridge from Les Diablerets as far as Pizol and in the Gotthard region, there was 120 to 150 cm registered.

Observed weather on Saturday, 30.01.2021

During the early part of the night in northern regions there was precipitation registered over widespread areas. Following a pause in precipitation, it subsequently recommenced in the western regions during the morning hours. In the southern and eastern regions it was partly sunny during the morning. The snowfall level in the western regions lay between 1500 and 2000 m, in the eastern regions it lay at approximately 1400 m.

Fresh snow

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

- northern and furthestmost western parts of Valais, northern flank of the Alps, Gotthard region, northern Grisons: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 10 to 20 cm over widespread areas; in the furthestmost southern regions, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in the western regions and -2 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

- Winds during the nocturnal hours were blowing initially at strong to storm strength from northwesterly directions, subsequently slackened off;
- during the daytime in the southern and the eastern regions, moderate-strength southerly winds prevailed; elsewhere mostly moderate-strength winds from westerly directions were blowing.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 31.01.2021

During the nighttime hours in the northern regions, snowfall is anticipated above 1200 m over widespread areas. During the morning the snowfall will come to an end from the west and it will become increasingly sunny. In the southern regions it will be predominantly dry and, during the afternoon, generally sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon above 1500 m:

- northern Alpine Ridge, northern Grisons: 15 to 30 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, 10 to 15 cm over widespread areas; in the Ticino, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -3 °C in the northern regions and 0 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds will be blowing at moderate strength in the northern regions during the night, during the daytime at light strength, from westerly to northerly directions;
- in the southern regions blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northerly directions.

Outlook through Tuesday, 02.02.2021

On Monday and Tuesday, skies will be heavily overcast for the most part and in the northern regions repeated bouts of snowfall are anticipated. On Monday the snowfall level will lie at approximately 1200 m. On Tuesday morning the snowfall level will ascend starting in the west to approximately 1800 m. The amounts of expected precipitation are still uncertain. Most of the anticipated snowfall will presumably fall in the furthestmost western parts of Lower Valais (about 40 to 80 cm). In the major areas of precipitation, avalanche danger levels could well increase again. In the other regions, avalanche danger will presumably decrease.