Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 1 February 2021

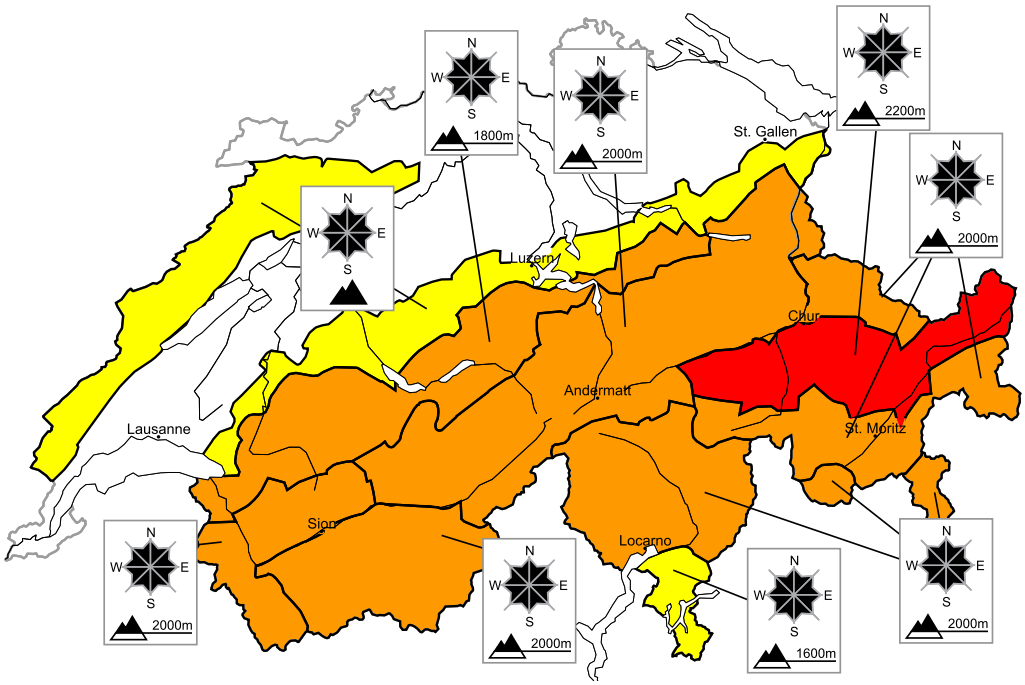
1.2.2021, 07:36

High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 1.2.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 1.2.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

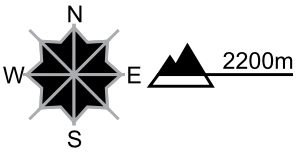
updated on 1.2.2021, 08:00



region A — Level 4, high

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The snowpack will be unstable. Avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow. Large and, in isolated cases, very large avalanches are further possible. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Remotely triggered and natural avalanches are possible.
The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are dangerous, especially in little used terrain. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered occasionally.

Wet avalanches

Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

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

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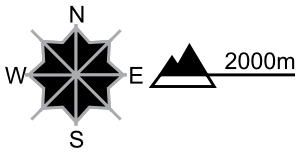
region B — Level 3, considerable

New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



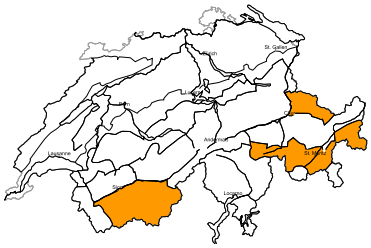
Danger description

As the day progresses as a consequence of new snow and wind there will be an increase in the avalanche danger. An increasing number of medium-sized to large natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers and reach very large size. In the course of the day possibly danger level 4 (high) will be reached. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.
Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Wet avalanches

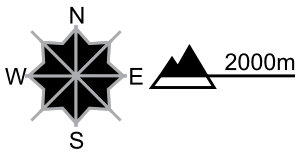
Medium-sized to large wet and gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

region C — Level 3, considerable



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. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Remotely triggered and 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 2000 m.

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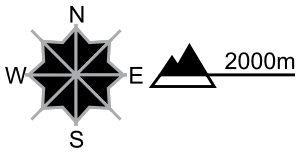
region D — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



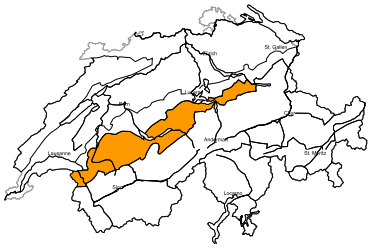
Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones.
In very isolated cases avalanches can also penetrate deep layers and reach very large size.
Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches

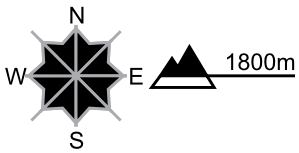
More medium-sized to large wet and gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

region E — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh wind slabs represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

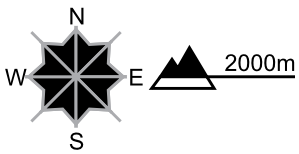
Wet avalanches

More medium-sized to large wet and gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

region F — 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 2000 m.

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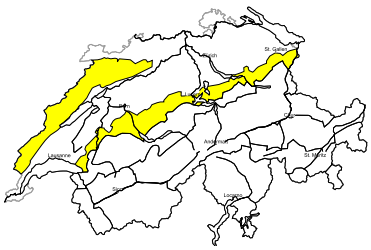
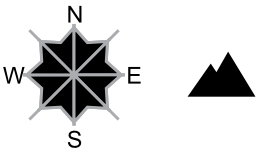
region G — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



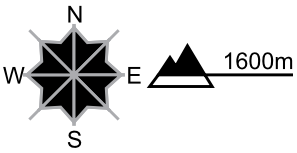
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and wind, mostly small wind slabs will form in particular in the vicinity of peaks. They 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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 31.1.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

The large amounts of fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrifts from this last week are continuing to consolidate. Beneath the thick layers of fresh snow, particularly in the Valais and in Grisons, there are strikingly weak layers. Avalanches can be triggered in these layers by persons, as various large-spread avalanche releases of the last few days have amply demonstrated. As a result of further snowfall and increased loading of the old snowpack, particularly in the western and the northern regions, additionally frequent fractures in the old snowpack cannot be ruled out. In the southern regions the snowpack layering is more favourable. Fractures in the more deeply embedded layers of the old snowpack are unlikely.
Below approximately 1800 to 2000 m the snowpack is thoroughly wet.

Observed weather on Sunday, 31.01.2021

During the night in the northern regions there was precipitation registered. The snowfall level in the western regions descended from about 2000 m down to 1600 m, in the eastern regions from about 1600 m down to 1400 m. During the daytime in the western and the southern regions it was quite sunny. In the northeastern regions skies were predominantly overcast and there was a small amount of snowfall registered. In Grisons it was partly sunny, amidst variably cloudy conditions.

Fresh snow
Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of snowfall were registered above approximately 2000 m:
· Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps not including Gotthard region: 15 to 30 cm;
· Upper Valais, northern and central Grisons, Engadine: 10 to 15 cm;
· Ticino, southern valleys of Grisons: only a few centimetres, or else it remained dry.

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

Wind
· Winds in the western regions were blowing predominantly at light strength;
· in the eastern regions at high altitudes blowing at moderate strength from northwesterly directions;
· in the southern regions, moderate-strength northerly winds.

Weather forecast through Monday, 01.02.2021

Skies will be heavily overcast over widespread areas and precipitation is anticipated from the west. The snowfall level in western regions will ascend during the course of the day to approximately 1500 m. In the eastern and the southern regions, the snowfall level will lie at 1000 to 1200 m.

Fresh snow
By Monday afternoon above 1500 m:
· northern and furthermost western parts of Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm;
· Jura region, remaining parts of Lower Valais, northern Alpine Ridge from Chablais to the Reuss: 10 to 20 cm;
· in the remaining regions of Switzerland, 5 to 10 cm over widespread areas; in Grisons only a few centimetres or else it will remain dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C in the northern regions and -4 °C in the southern regions.

Wind
· Winds in the northern regions will be westerly, blowing at strong velocity;
· winds in the southern and eastern regions will be southwesterly, blowing at moderate strength.

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Outlook through Wednesday, 03.02.2021

In the western and the northern regions, repeated bouts of precipitation are anticipated. The snowfall level will ascend to nearly 2000 m. The anticipated amounts of precipitation are still quite uncertain. The danger of dry-snow avalanches is expected to decrease only incrementally. The danger of wet-snow and gliding avalanches will remain intact to begin with. In the Ticino and in Grisons, only very little or no precipitation at all is anticipated. The avalanche danger levels will decrease, in Grisons only incrementally, however, due to the weak snowpack layering.