Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 2 February 2021

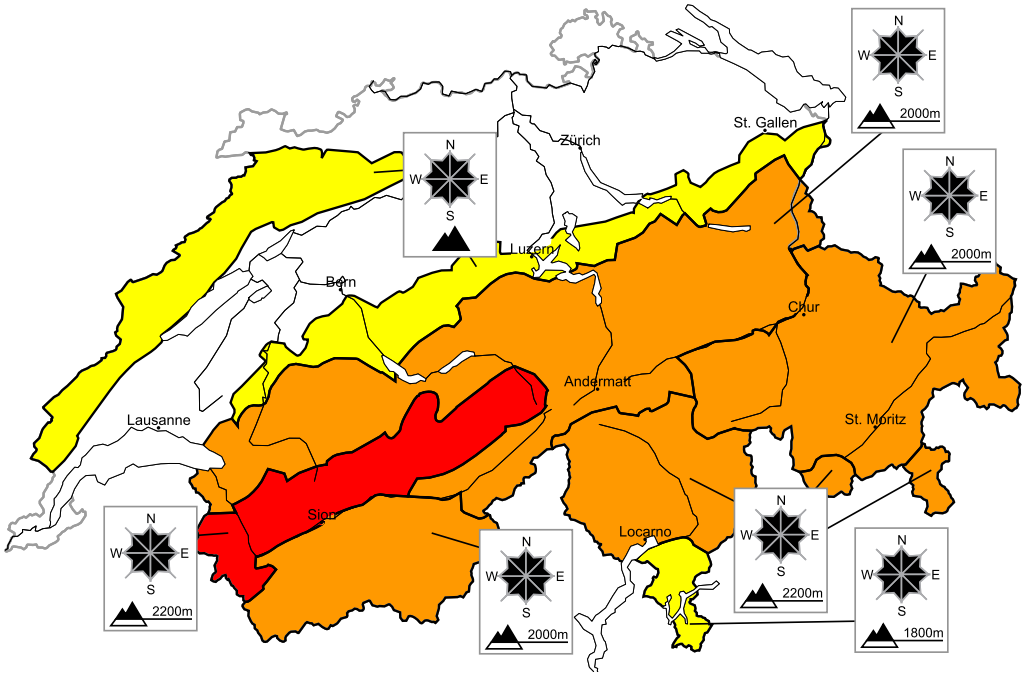
2.2.2021, 07:50

High avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

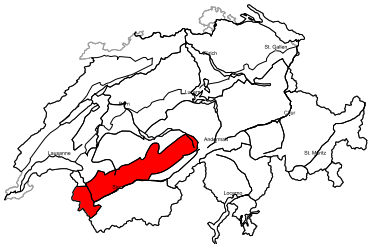
Edition: 2.2.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 2.2.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 2.2.2021, 08:00

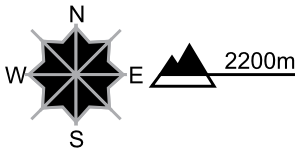


region A — Level 4, high



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Some medium-sized to large natural avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming, this applies in particular from the middle of the day. Avalanches can in some cases penetrate deep layers. From starting zones where no previous releases have taken place avalanches can in isolated cases reach very large size and in some cases endanger transportation routes that are exposed.
Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Wet and full-depth avalanches

As a consequence of the rain more frequent medium-sized to large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

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

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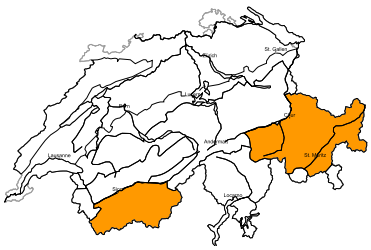
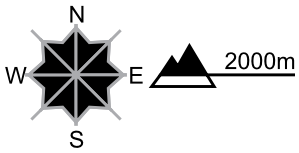
region B — Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



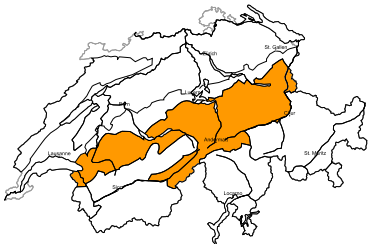
Danger description

In some places avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow and reach very large size in isolated cases. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. As a consequence of warming individual natural avalanches are possible.
The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are critical.

Wet avalanches

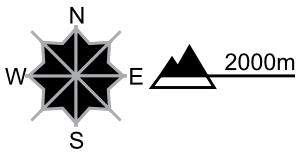
Individual wet and gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

region C — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes strong westerly wind, wind slabs will form. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. In addition further individual natural avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases be triggered in deep layers and reach large size.
Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

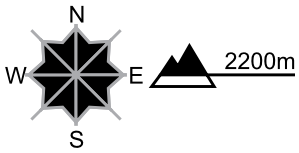
Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain medium-sized to large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m.

region D — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



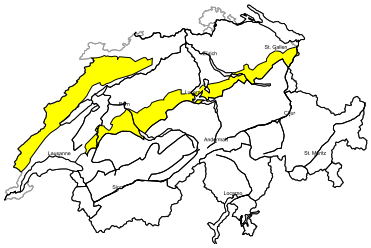
Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. They are in some cases still 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

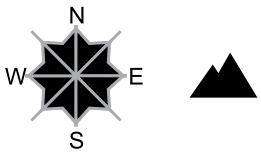
Individual gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m.

region E — Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches, wind slabs

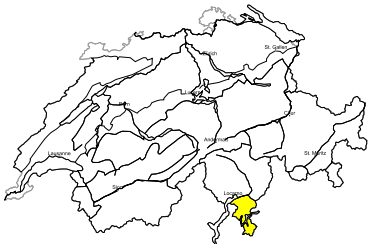
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

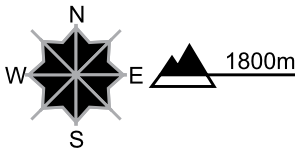
Individual, then as a consequence of the rain more wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected. These can also reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised on steep slopes.
In addition the fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular above approximately 1500 m. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

region F — 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 very steep terrain. Avalanches can reach medium size in isolated cases. Careful route selection is recommended.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 1.2.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

In the last five days, 1 to 2 m of snow have fallen over a wide area in Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons. Most recently, there have been frequent breaks in the precipitation. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are continuing to settle.
Underneath these deep fresh snow and wind slab layers, distinct weak layers are to be found in Valais and Grisons in particular. Avalanches can be triggered in these layers, as evidenced by various avalanche releases with a large surface area in recent days. Additional snowfall in the west and north can give rise to further failures in the old snowpack here. In the south, the bonding of the snowpack is more favourable. Fractures are unlikely to occur in the old snowpack.
The snowpack is thoroughly moist below approximately 1800 to 2000 m. Gliding avalanches can still occur here. These can reach a large size.

Observed weather on Monday, 01.02.2021

Apart from some bright spells in the east, it was mostly very cloudy. In the west in particular, snow fell above 1200 to 1600 m.

Fresh snow
The following amounts of snow fell above approximately 1600 m in the period from Sunday afternoon until Monday afternoon:
- Western part of the northern flank of the Alps, extreme west of Lower Valais, northern Valais from the Dents de Morcles into Lötschental: 20 to 40 cm
- Other regions of both Lower Valais and northern Upper Valais, Central Switzerland: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere: a few centimetres or remaining dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: between -2 °C in the north and -4 °C in the south

Wind
From southwesterly directions
- Moderate to strong in the north
- Light to moderate in the south

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 02.02.2021

Precipitation will fall during the night in the north and west. The snowfall level will be approximately 1500 m. It will be mostly very cloudy during the day. In the afternoon, a little more precipitation is possible on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais. The snowfall level will rise towards 2000 m.
The south will be partly sunny and mostly dry.

Fresh snow
In the period until Tuesday afternoon above 2000 m:
- 10 to 20 cm on the northern flank of the Alps and in the extreme west of Lower Valais, but locally up to 30 cm from the Bernese Alps to Alpstein
- Rest of Valais, northern Grisons: 5 to 10 cm
- Elsewhere: smaller amounts or remaining dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: about +1 °C in the north and -1 °C in the south

Wind
Strong westerly in the north and generally at elevated altitudes, increasing in strength as the day progresses

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Outlook through Thursday, 04.02.2021

Wednesday

The weather will remain changeable and mild. A little further snow will fall in the west and north. Ticino and Grisons will remain mostly dry.

The avalanche danger will decrease slowly, but in the inneralpine regions of both Valais and Grisons only very slowly as a consequence of the weak snowpack.

Thursday

There will be hardly any further precipitation on Thursday. It will become increasingly sunny. It will remain mild. The avalanche danger will decrease only slowly.