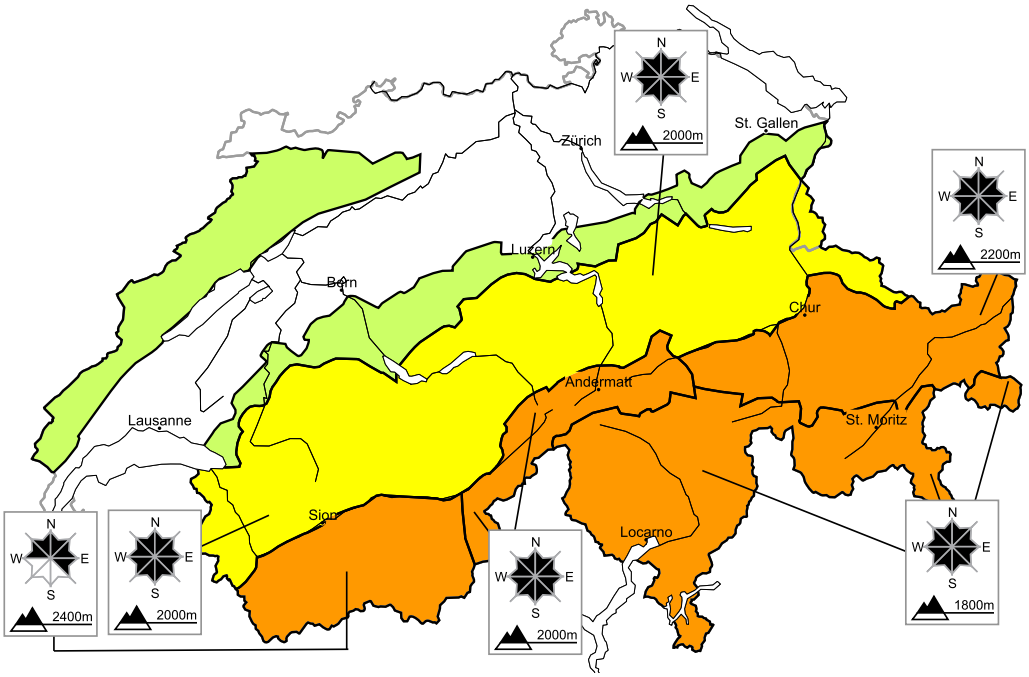
Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 8.2.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 8.2.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

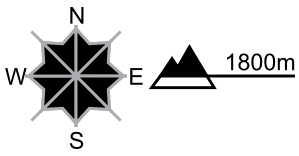
updated on 8.2.2021, 08:00



region A | **Level 3, considerable**

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs represent the main danger. Only isolated natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Additionally in some places avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers and reach dangerously large size. Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Gliding avalanches

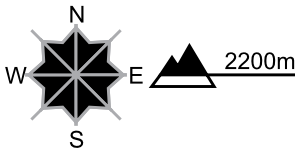
Only isolated gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2000 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered in some localities.

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

region B — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In some cases avalanches can be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack and reach large size. 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. In addition the fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases. These avalanche prone locations are covered with new snow and are therefore difficult to recognise. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

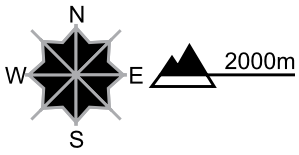
Gliding avalanches

Only isolated gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered in some localities.

region C — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of wind from variable directions, avalanche prone wind slabs formed at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

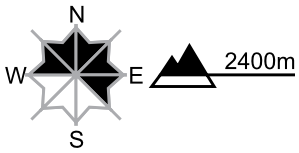
Gliding avalanches

Individual gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region D — Level 3, considerable

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



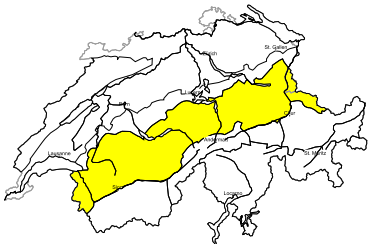
Danger description

In some cases avalanches can be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack and reach large size. 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. In addition the wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering in some cases.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

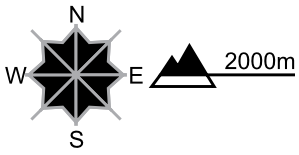
Individual gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region E — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



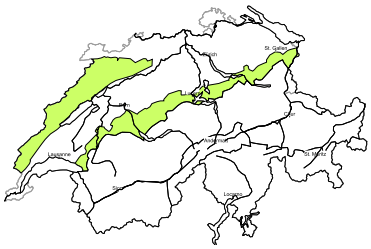
Danger description

As a consequence of wind from variable directions, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed. They are covered with new snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

Individual gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region F — Level 1, low



Wind slabs

As a consequence of westerly wind, small wind slabs will form in some localities. Isolated gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 7.2.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of the rainfall and warmer temperatures of this last week, the snowpack below approximately 2000 m became wet and massively settled. The snow depths at high altitudes are still slightly above average over widespread areas. Particularly above approximately 2200 m, there are persistent weak layers deeply embedded inside the snowpack. Inside these layers avalanches can be triggered in some places, more than anywhere else in the southern Valais and in Grisons. Avalanches which fracture down to these deeper-down layers can sweep away the entire snowpack and grow to large size. On the southern flank of the Alps the snowpack structuring is more favourable. Fractures lower down in the old snow are no longer likely. As a result of strong-velocity southerly winds on Saturday night, the fresh snow in southern regions and also the loosely-packed old snow in some places of the northern regions was transported.
Over the weekend, medium and large-sized avalanches were released over widespread areas. As a result of the lower temperatures, this avalanche activity will decrease, but glide-snow avalanches continue to be possible in isolated cases.

Observed weather on Sunday, 07.02.2021

Skies were heavily overcast for the most part. On Saturday night in the southern regions, precipitation set in. The snowfall level lay at 1200 m, in the upper Alpine valleys at 800 m. During the course of the day on Sunday, precipitation set in also in the northern regions. The snowfall level descended from 1500 m down to approximately 1000 m.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon above approximately 1600 m:
- southern flank of the Alps, Rheinwald region, Avers, Upper Engadine: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining regions of the Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn into the Lower Engadine: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, maximum 10 cm.

Temperature

Temperatures dropped, starting in the west. At midday at 2000 m: -3 °C in the western and the southern regions and 0 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

- On Saturday night at high altitudes, winds were blowing at strong to storm velocity from southerly directions, in the foehn-exposed regions of the north there was intermittently strong-velocity foehn wind;
- on Sunday morning the southerly wind slackened off, blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly to southwesterly directions during the course of the day.

Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 8 February 2021

Weather forecast through Monday, 08.02.2021

On Sunday night, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas down to low lying zones, most of which will fall in the southern and the eastern regions. During the daytime on Monday, skies will be predominantly overcast in the Jura region. Otherwise it will initially be quite sunny in the western regions, subsequently turn increasingly overcast during the afternoon. In the southern and the eastern regions, residual clouds will disperse during the morning hours. Then it will become increasingly sunny during the course of the morning, accompanied by cloudbanks.

Fresh snow

Between Sunday evening and Monday afternoon:

- Main Alpine Ridge from Lukmanier Pass to Bernina Pass, as well as the regions along the borders of central Grisons: 20 to 30 cm;
- Goms, northern flank of the Alps east of Guttannen, Simplon region, Goms, remaining regions of Ticino and Grisons: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, maximum 10 cm.

Temperature

Temperatures are expected to drop further. At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in the northern regions and -4 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds in the northern regions will be blowing at moderate strength, during the course of the day at moderate-to-strong velocity, from westerly directions;
- winds in the southern rewgions will be blowing at moderate strength from northwesterly directions during the nocturnal hours, during the daytime at light to moderate strength from westerly directions.

Outlook through Wednesday, 10.02.2021

Tuesday

In the northern regions, skies will be overcast to begin with and a few centimetres of snowfall is anticipated down to low lying regions. During the course of the day it will become quite sunny. In the southern regions it will be rather sunny. Avalanche danger levels are expected to decrease.

Wednesday

Skies will be predominantly overcast and above approximately 800 m a small amount of snowfall is expected over widespread areas, most of which will fall in the western and the southern regions. Avalanche danger levels could increase somewhat from region to region.