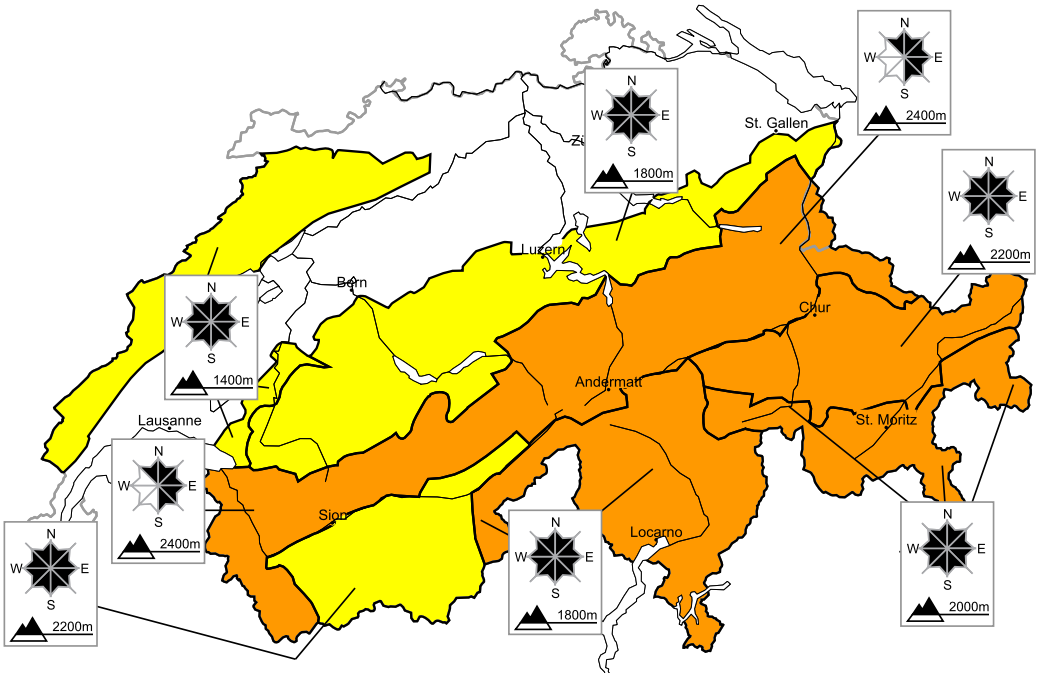
Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 11 February 2021

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 11.2.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 11.2.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

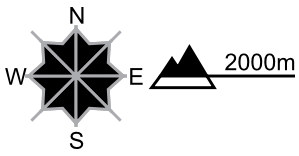
updated on 11.2.2021, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

New snow, old snow

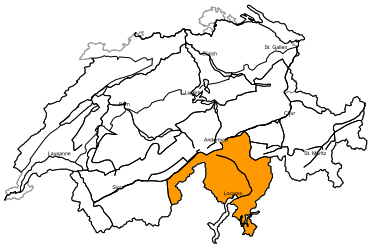
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

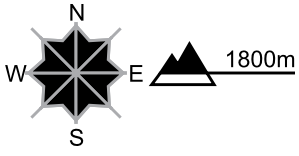
The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Natural avalanches are possible. These can also be triggered in deep layers and reach large size. Experience and restraint are required.

region B — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong northerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Individual small to medium-sized natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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

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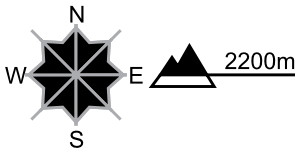
region C — Level 3, considerable

Old snow, wind slabs

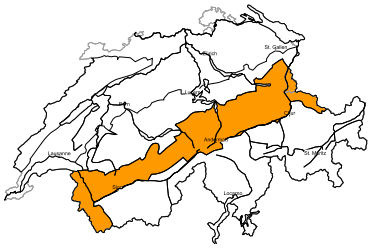
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

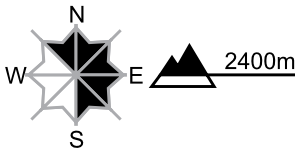
In some cases avalanches can be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. In addition the fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region D — Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



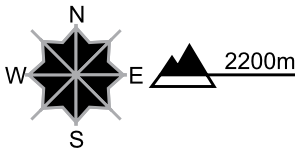
Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong wind, further wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes. The fresh and older wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region E — Level 2, moderate

Old snow, wind slabs

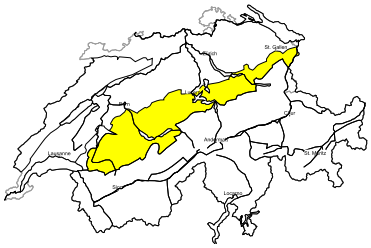
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

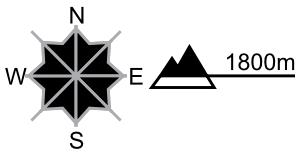
In isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. In addition the fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases.
Defensive route selection is required. This applies in particular on very steep slopes.

region F — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate wind, wind slabs formed during the night in some localities. The fresh and older wind slabs represent the main danger. They are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

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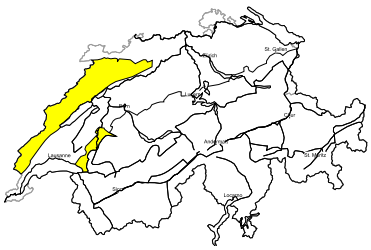
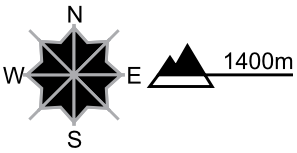
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate bise wind, further wind slabs will form in some localities. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.2.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of fresh fallen snow and increasingly strong-velocity westerly winds, snowdrift accumulations have been generated at heightened altitudes. These drifted masses are prone to triggering and will tend to grow in size and frequency on Wednesday night, and further still during the daytime on Thursday.
In the southern Valais and in Grisons more than anywhere else, there are marked weak layers deeply embedded inside the snowpack above approximately 2200 m. Inside these layers, avalanches can be triggered in some places. These releases can sweep away the entire snow cover and grow to large size. On the southern flank of the Alps the snowpack structuring is more favourable. In those regions fractures deeper down in the old snowpack are no longer likely.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 10.02.2021

Skies were gray and snowfall was registered over widespread areas. The snowfall level lay between 400 m in the Jura region and 1000 m in northern Grisons. In the southern regions the snowfall came to an end at midday and there were isolated bright intervals.

Fresh snow
Between Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 700 m:
· furthermost western part of Lower Valais, central sector of the southern flank of the Alps and Grisons: 10 to 20 cm;
· in the other regions of Switzerland, 5 to 10 cm over widespread areas.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -5 °C in the western regions and -3 °C in the eastern and the southern regions.

Wind
· Winds in the northern regions were blowing at light-to-moderate strength in the early morning hours, in the afternoon at moderate-to-strong velocity from westerly to northwesterly directions;
· in the southern regions, winds in early morning were light, blowing at moderate strength from the northwest during the course of the afternoon.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 11.02.2021

During the nighttime hours on Wednesday, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated in the northern regions. During the daytime on Thursday it will become increasingly sunny in the northern regions, in the Valais and the southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. The snowfall level will be at low lying areas.

Fresh snow
Between Wednesday evening and Thursday midday:
· on the northern flank of the Alps: 5 to 15 cm;
· in the other regions of Switzerland: only a few centimetres, or else it will remain dry.

Temperature
Temperatures at midday at 2000 m will lie between -6 °C in the western and the southern regions, and -13 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind
· In the Jura region and the Prealps, a bise wind will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity;
· at high altitudes in general, winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northwesterly directions;
· in the southern regions, winds will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northerly directions, extending down to the valleys.

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Outlook through Saturday, 13.02.2021

Friday

In the northern regions it will be rather sunny, in spite of some cloudbanks. In the southern regions it will be only partly sunny and temperatures will drop measurably. At midday the temperature at 2000 m will be approximately -12 °C. Winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength from the northwest, intermittently at strong velocity at heightened altitudes. Avalanche danger levels are expected to gradually decrease.

Saturday

It will be quite sunny. In the northern regions, a moderate-strength bise wind will be blowing. In the southern and the eastern regions it will be cold, at approximately -12 °C at midday at 2000 m.
Avalanche danger levels are expected to incrementally increase to a further extent.