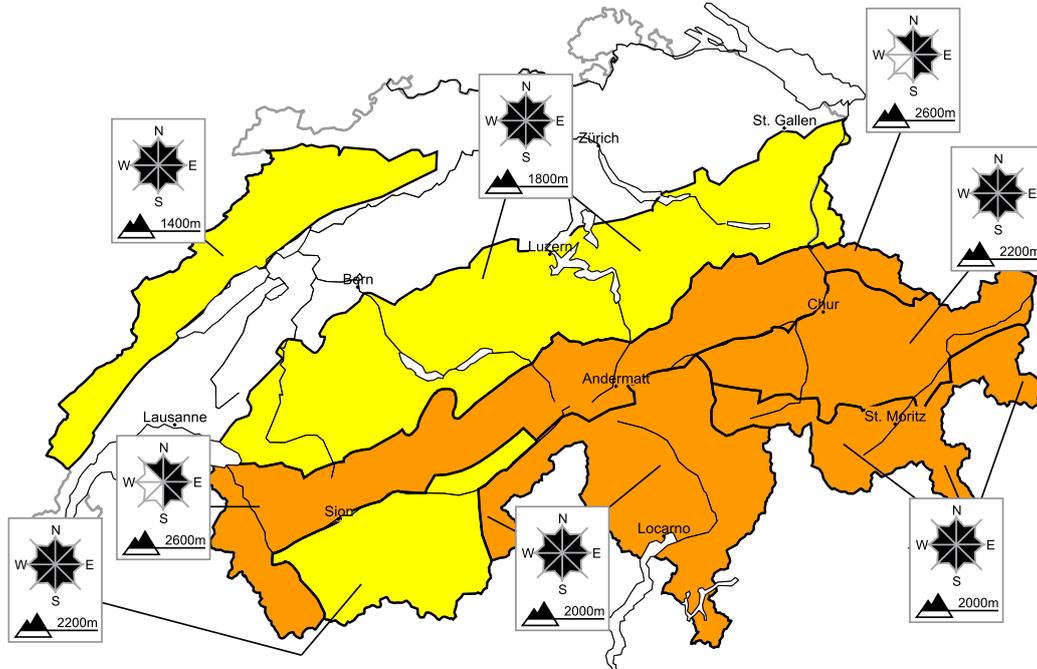


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 12.2.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 12.2.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 12.2.2021, 08:00

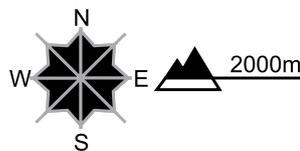


region A Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

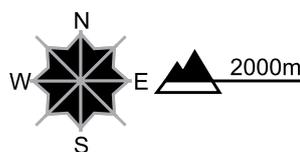
The wind slabs of the last few days represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. These can also be triggered in deep layers and reach large size. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is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

region B Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

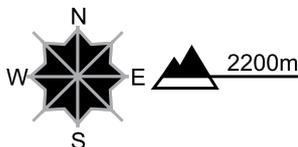
As a consequence of a sometimes strong northwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes. The fresh and older wind slabs represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C **Level 3, considerable**



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

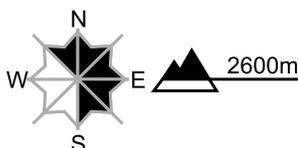
In some cases avalanches can be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. In addition the fresh and older wind slabs 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

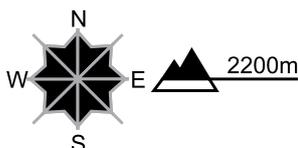
As a consequence of the sometimes strong wind the wind slabs will increase in size additionally, in particular at elevated altitudes. The fresh and older wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience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

region E **Level 2, moderate**



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

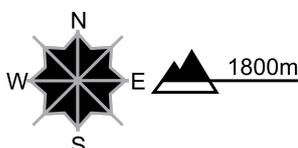
In isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. In addition the fresh and older wind slabs 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

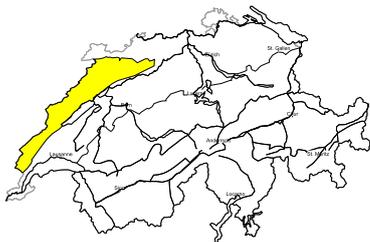


Danger description

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.

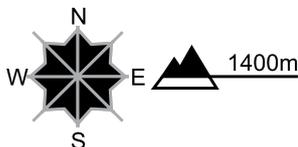
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate bise wind, mostly small wind slabs formed. These are 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.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

Snowpack and weather

updated on 11.2.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

At heightened altitudes the new snow of the last few days, together with the loosely-packed surface-layer old snow, was frequently transported by strong velocity winds. The freshly generated snowdrifts and also the older drifts are prone to triggering in some places.

In the southern Valais and in Grisons, there are marked weak layers deeply embedded in the snowpack above approximately 2200 m. In some places, avalanches can fracture down to these deeper layers and sweep away the entire snowpack. Particularly in Grisons, precisely such fractures were triggered in the old snowpack by winter sports enthusiasts this week. On the southern flank of the Alps, the snowpack structuring is more favourable, fractures deeper down in the old snowpack are no longer likely.

Observed weather on Thursday, 11.02.2021

On Wednesday night in the northern regions there was a small amount of additional snowfall down to low lying areas. During the daytime on Thursday in northern regions it became increasingly sunny, in the Valais and in the southern regions it was quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 700 m:

- western part of Lower Valais, Vaud Alps, Fribourg Alps, central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm; along the French border as much as 40 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, 5 to 15 cm over widespread areas.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in the southern Valais, in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, -8 °C in the remaining regions of the west, and -12 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

- In the Jura region and the Prealps, a moderate-strength bise wind was blowing;
- at heightened altitudes in general, a moderate to strong velocity northwesterly wind was blowing;
- in the southern regions, a moderate-strength northerly wind was blowing, extending down to the valleys.

Weather forecast through Friday, 12.02.2021

In the western and southern regions, skies will be predominantly overcast and a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. In the eastern regions it will be intermittently sunny, accompanied by some cloudbanks.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday evening in the western and southern regions, a few centimetres of snowfall is expected down to low lying areas.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in the western regions, -7 °C in the eastern regions and -9 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds will be light to moderate from westerly directions;
- at heightened altitudes generally moderate strength, intermittently at strong velocity further to the east, from northwesterly directions;
- in the Jura region and the Prealps, a moderate strength bise wind will be blowing.

Outlook through Sunday, 14.02.2021

Saturday

It will be quite sunny and cold. In the western and southern regions, a bit of light snowfall is still possible in the morning hours. At heightened altitudes a moderate-to-strong velocity northerly wind will be blowing, in the Jura region and the Prealps a moderate bise wind will prevail. In the southern and eastern regions it will be cold: approximately -12 °C at midday at 2000 m.

Avalanche danger will gradually decrease.

Sunday

It will be quite sunny. Winds will slacken off during the course of the day. It will be ongoingly cold.

Avalanche danger levels are expected to diminish further.