Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 13 February 2021

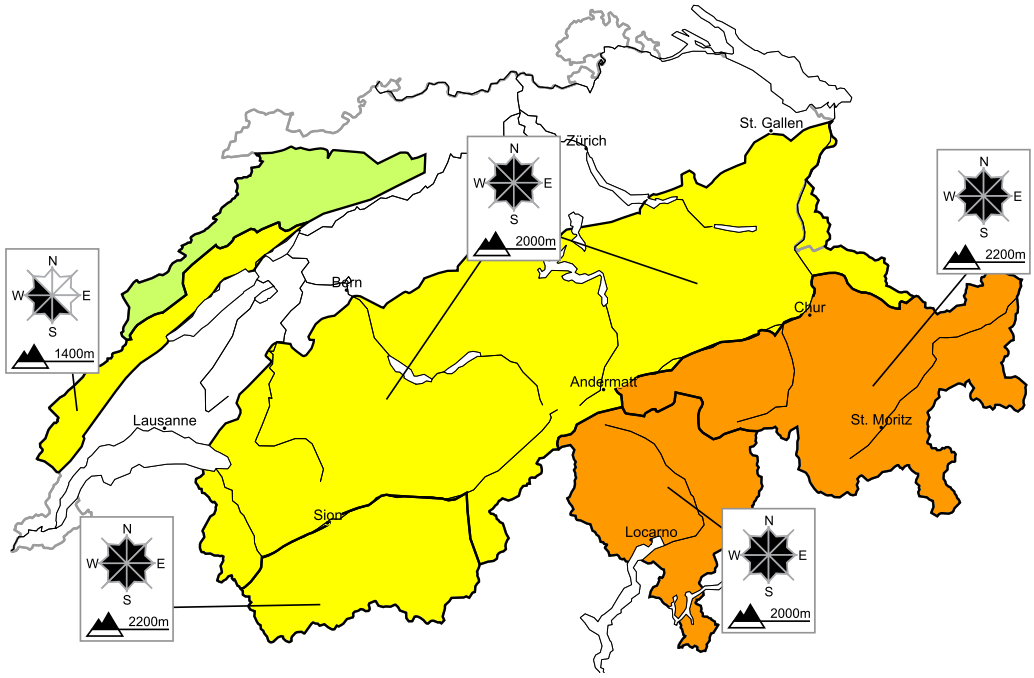
13.2.2021, 07:37

In Ticino and in Grisons a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 13.2.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 13.2.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

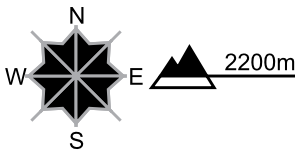
updated on 13.2.2021, 08:00



region A | **Level 3, considerable**

Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack and reach large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Caution is to be exercised in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, as well as in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow.
In addition the somewhat older wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases still.
Defensive route selection is required.

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

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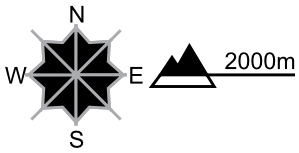
region B — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



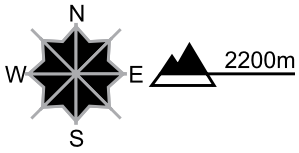
Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases still prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers of the snowpack, especially in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. They can reach quite a large size. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C — Level 2, moderate

Old snow, wind slabs

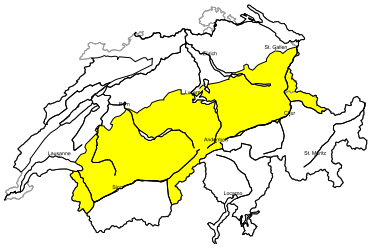
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

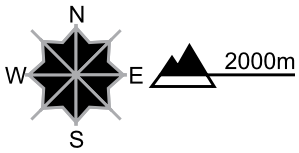
In isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Caution is to be exercised in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, as well as in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow.
In addition the fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases.
Defensive route selection is advisable.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

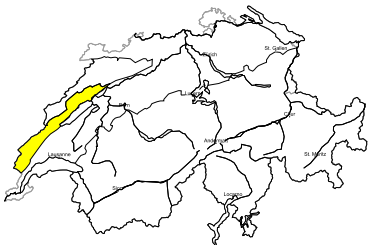
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

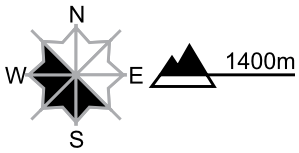
Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls and generally at elevated altitudes. They are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. The wind slabs are to be avoided in steep terrain.
In high Alpine regions the wind slabs are larger. Here the avalanche danger is a little higher.

region E — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

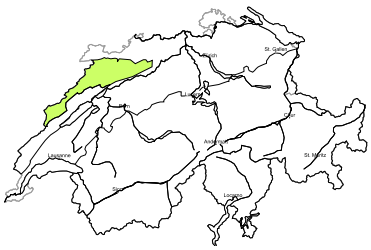


Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate bise wind, mostly small wind slabs formed in gullies and bowls and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

region F

Level 1, low



Wind slabs

A little snow is lying. As a consequence of a moderate bise wind, small wind slabs formed in particular in gullies and bowls and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in extreme 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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 12.2.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

Snowdrift accumulations from the last few days have been triggered by persons, generally in the form of small-to-medium sized slab avalanches. It can be expected that these snowdrift accumulations are gradually stabilizing.
In the southern Valais and in Grisons, there are marked weak layers deeply embedded inside the snowpack in all aspects, above 2200 m on north-facing slopes, on south-facing slopes somewhat higher. From place to place, avalanches can be triggered in these layers and subsequently sweep the entire snow cover along with them and grow to large size. Particularly in Grisons during the last few days, precisely such fractures have been unleashed by winter sports enthusiasts in the old snow. On the northern flank of the Alps, such weak layers occur less frequently and are more deeply blanketed over. In the Ticino the snowpack layering is also more favourable and fractures deeper down inside the old snowpack layers are no longer likely.

Observed weather on Friday, 12.02.2021

In Grisons, sunny weather dominated. In the other regions of Switzerland skies were generally overcast, with some bright intervals in the southern Valais into the Gotthard region in particular.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the western regions, -5 °C in the eastern regions and -9 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds in the Alps were blowing at moderate to strong velocity from westerly directions at heightened altitudes during the nocturnal hours; in the Jura region a moderate-strength bise wind prevailed;
- during the daytime winds were blowing at light to moderate strength, in the Alps from westerly directions, in the Jura region a bise wind prevailed.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 13.02.2021

In the northern regions there will be high fog below approximately 1500 m which will disperse to some extent during the course of the day. Above the high fog it will be predominantly sunny. On the southern flank of the Alps skies will be generally overcast in early morning, in the afternoon it will become quite sunny.

Fresh snow

On Friday night in the western and the southern regions, maximum 10 cm of fresh snow is anticipated down to low lying areas, in the other regions it is expected to remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in the western regions, -11 °C in the eastern regions and -13 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- In the Jura region a moderate-strength bise wind will prevail;
- in the Alps a moderate-strength northwesterly wind will be blowing, somewhat stronger in high alpine regions.

Outlook through Monday, 15.02.2021

Sunday

It will be predominantly sunny and slightly less cold. Avalanche danger levels will incrementally decrease.

Monday

In the morning it will still be quite sunny, in the afternoon predominantly overcast. It will be significantly less cold. Avalanche danger levels will gradually decrease.