Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 16 February 2021

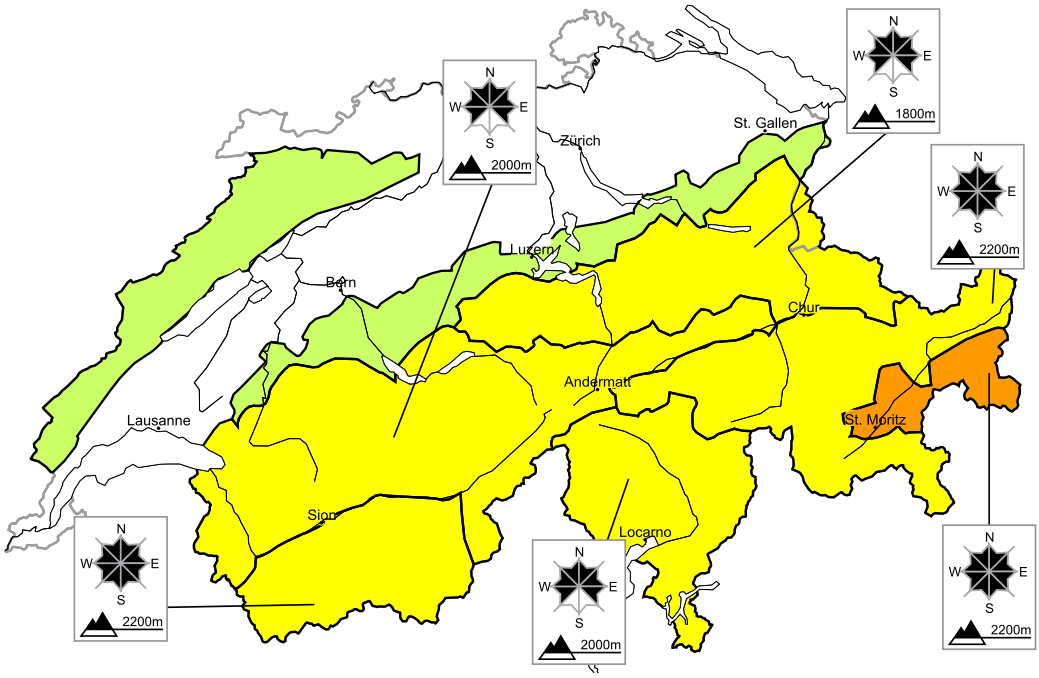
16.2.2021, 07:48

In Grisons a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 16.2.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 16.2.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

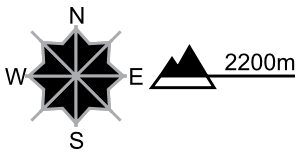
updated on 16.2.2021, 08:00



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 in isolated cases. 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 fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases.
Defensive route selection is required. Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

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

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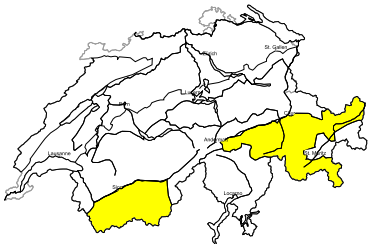
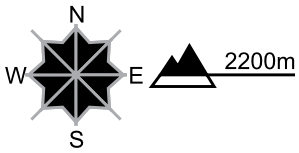
region B — Level 2, moderate



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. Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

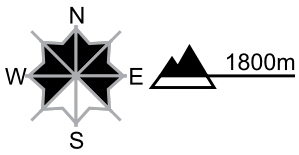
Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides are possible as a consequence of warming during the day.

region C — Level 2, moderate

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

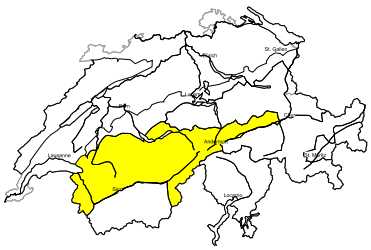
Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are rather small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. In high Alpine regions the avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and larger.

Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow. This applies in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow on little used shady slopes.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

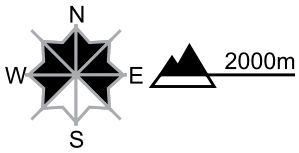
On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They are mostly small. In high Alpine regions the avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and larger.
Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow. This applies in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow on little used shady slopes.
Ski touring calls for careful route selection.

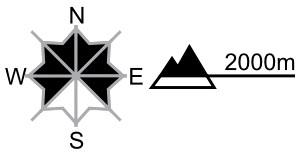
Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes moist snow slides are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day.

region E — Level 2, moderate

No distinct avalanche problem

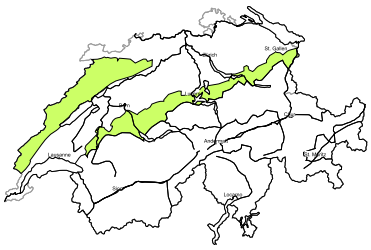
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The avalanche conditions are generally favourable. Avalanches can in some cases be released in near-surface layers of the snowpack, especially on steep north facing slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region F — Level 1, low



Wind slabs

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. They are only small but can be released in isolated cases. The wind slabs 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.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 15.2.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

The fresh and older snow drift accumulations are mostly shallow, but are lying on an unfavourable old snow surface and therefore prone to triggering.
In southern Valais and in Grisons, distinct weak layers exist deep in the snowpack in all aspects; they are to be found above 2200 m on north facing slopes and a little higher on south facing slopes. These weak layers are mostly well covered by snow and can now be released by people only in isolated cases. In such instances, however, the avalanches release the entire snowpack and reach large size. On the northern flank of the Alps, such weak layers are less prevalent and mostly even better covered. In Ticino, the bonding of the snowpack is more favourable, and fractures are unlikely to occur in deep layers of old snow.

Observed weather on Monday, 15.02.2021

In the mountains it was sunny in the morning before becoming increasingly cloudy in the afternoon.

Fresh snow

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Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: from +1 °C in the west to -2 °C in the east and -8 °C in the south

Wind

· Often moderate, but during the day at elevated altitudes, locally strong from the west to northwest
· In the Jura during the night, strong southwesterly

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 16.02.2021

In the north, a little snow will fall during Monday night. By the time the precipitation ceases on Tuesday morning, the snowfall level will rise to approximately 1800 m in the Bernese Oberland and approximately 1400 m in the far east. On Tuesday it will quickly become sunny from the west. In the far south it will be mostly clear during the night and sunny during the day.

Fresh snow

· Northern Alpine ridge from the Jungfrau region into the Urn Alps, northern Valais: 5 to 10 cm
· Less elsewhere, remaining dry in the far west and south

Temperature

It will become much warmer. At midday at 2000 m: between +5 °C in the west and +2 °C in the east

Wind

· During the night, moderate, but sometimes strong in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in the high Alpine regions of Grisons, from the west to northwest
· During the day, moderate, but sometimes strong in the west in the afternoon, from the west to southwest

Outlook through Thursday, 18.02.2021

Wednesday

As a consequence of the strong westerly wind, a few centimetres of snow will fall during Tuesday night in the north. The snowfall level will be 1200 to 1500 m. During the day the wind will ease and it will become increasingly sunny. The far south will be mostly sunny.
The avalanche danger may increase a little in the north, but will not change significantly elsewhere.

Thursday

Thursday will be sunny at first with light foehn conditions in the north. During the day cloud will build up from the south and west.
The avalanche danger will not change significantly.