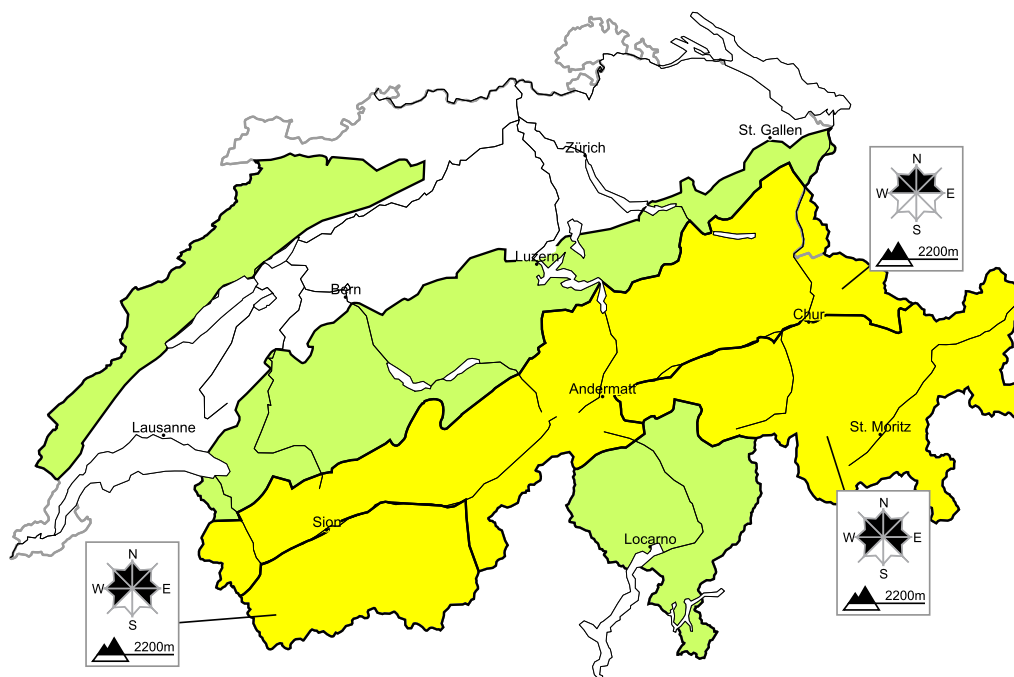


Weakly bonded old snow in Grisons and in Valais. Wet avalanches as the day progresses

Edition: 21.2.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 21.2.2021, 17:00

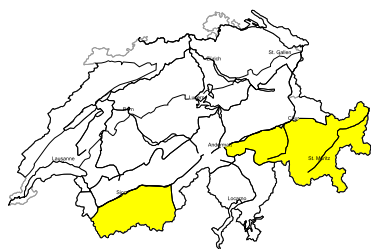
Dry avalanches

updated on 21.2.2021, 08:00



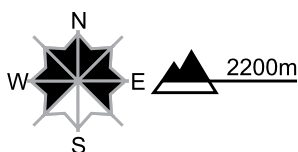
Dry, region A

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 in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow, as well as in little used terrain.

As a consequence of a strengthening southerly wind, small wind slabs will form in the course of the day. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain.

Defensive route selection is advisable. Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

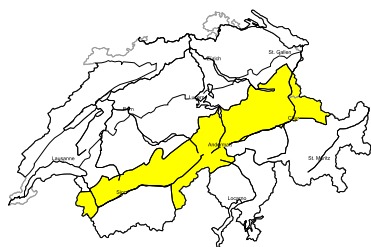
3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

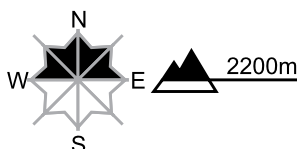
Dry, region B

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In the late morning a generally favourable avalanche situation will prevail. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in near-surface layers of the snowpack. They can reach medium size.

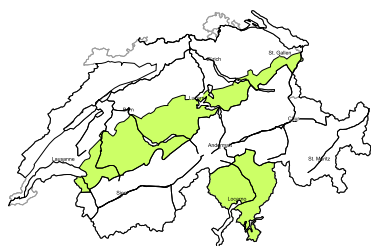
As a consequence of a strengthening southerly wind, small wind slabs will form in the course of the day. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain.

Careful route selection is recommended.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, region C

Level 1, low



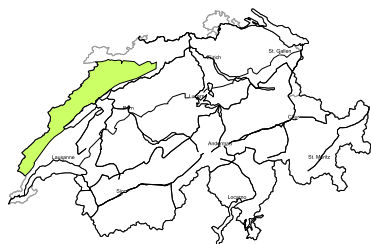
No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain at high altitude. 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.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, region D

Level 1, low



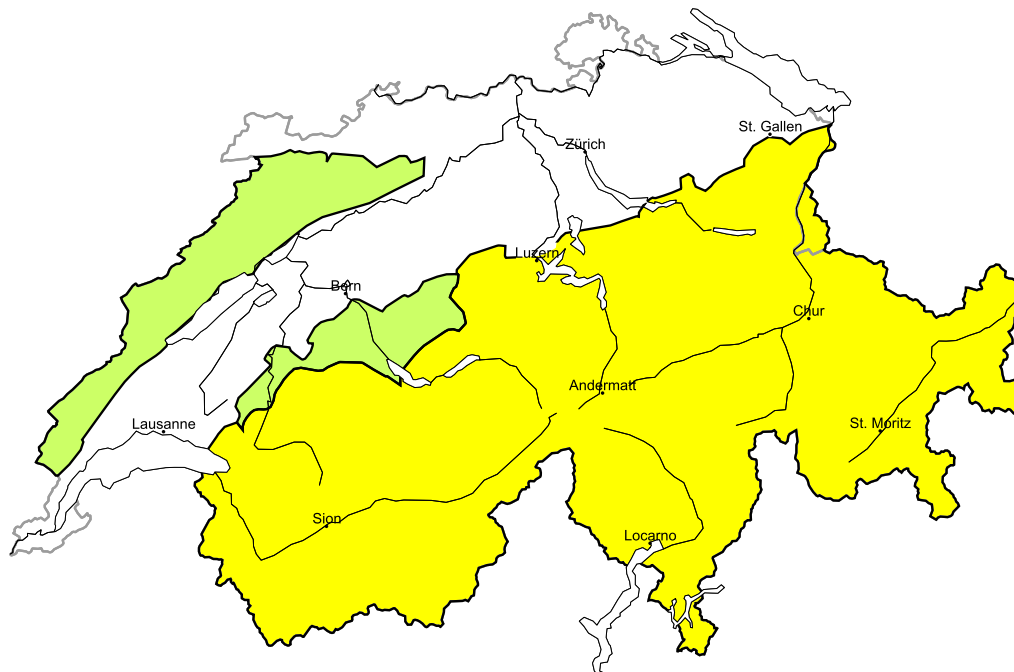
No distinct avalanche problem

Dry avalanches are not to be expected.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

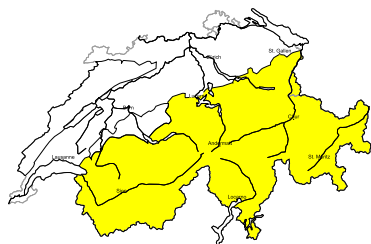
Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 21.2.2021, 08:00



Wet, region A

Level 2, moderate



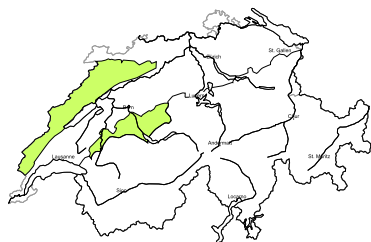
Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation individual wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected. They can in many cases reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on steep sunny slopes below approximately 2400 m. Backcountry tours should be concluded timely.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Wet, region B

Level 1, low



Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation individual gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Snowpack and weather

updated on 20.2.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of strong-velocity southerly winds, small snowdrift accumulations will be generated on shady slopes at high altitudes, particularly on the northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge. There are still weak layers in the ground-level layers of the old snow, above approximately 2200 m on north-facing slopes, somewhat higher on south-facing slopes. These layers are most marked in Grisons and in the southern Valais. In these regions more than anywhere else, the likelihood of dry-snow avalanches triggering in the deep layers of old snow will increase somewhat during the course of the day as a result of higher temperatures and solar radiation. On steep south-facing slopes, a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads will be generated up to high altitudes during a night of clear skies. As a result of the crust thawing, the snowpack will forfeit its stability. Particularly on south-facing slopes, wet-snow avalanches can be expected during the course of the day. As a consequence of the persistent mild temperatures, the frequency of gliding avalanches is expected to increase somewhat.

Observed weather on Saturday, 20.02.2021

On Friday night, skies in the Ticino were overcast, in the other regions of Switzerland skies were clear. During the daytime on Saturday, it was often overcast in Ticino. In the remaining regions of Switzerland it was sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +6 °C in the northern regions and 0 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds were blowing at light to moderate strength, in the Gotthard region and in the furthestmost west predominantly at moderate strength, from southerly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 21.02.2021

Skies on Saturday night will be partly overcast in the furthestmost southern regions, in the other regions skies will be clear. During the daytime on Sunday it will be sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +8 °C in the northern regions and +2 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- In the northern regions and in general at higher altitudes, a moderate-strength southerly wind will be blowing, increasing in velocity during the course of the day;
- in the foehn-exposed valleys of the north, a moderate to strong-velocity foehn wind will prevail.

Outlook through Tuesday, 23.02.2021

Nighttime skies will be predominantly clear. On Monday it will be quite sunny. During the afternoon, cloud cover will move in, particularly in the western regions. On Tuesday it will be sunny. Temperatures will remain mild. The zero-degree level will lie at 3000 m.

The avalanche situation will be predominantly favourable during the morning hours of each day. Particularly in the southern Valais and in Grisons, however, the old-snow problem will remain upright.

The danger of wet-snow and gliding avalanches is expected to increase significantly on sunny slopes during the course of each day. Skiing tours in outlying terrain should be brought to a close early in the day.