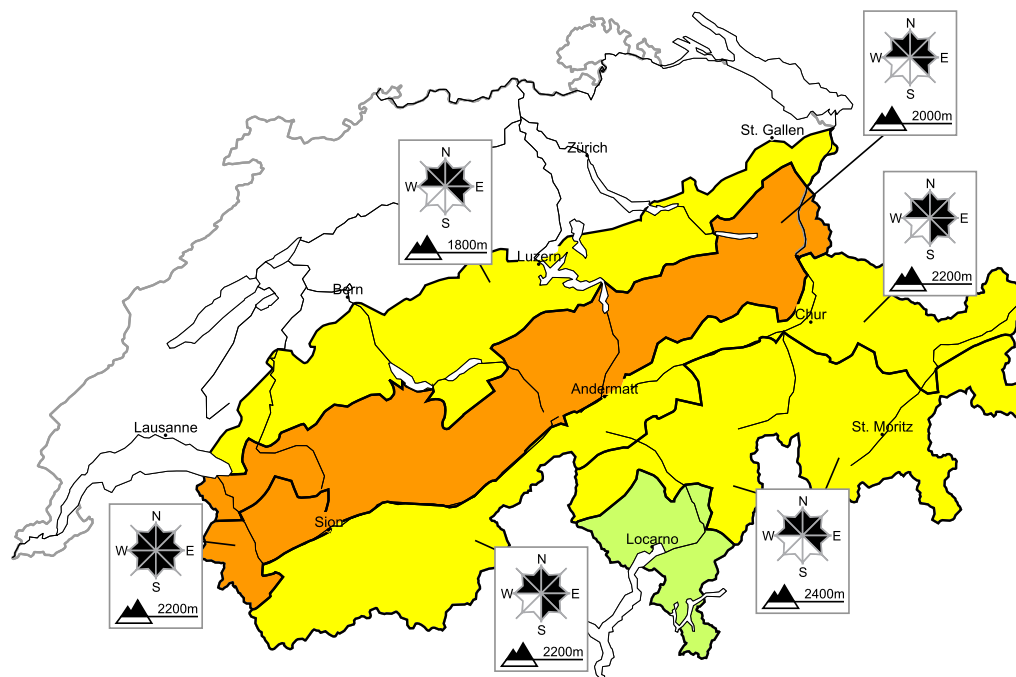


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Fresh wind slabs require caution

Edition: 12.3.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 12.3.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 12.3.2021, 08:00



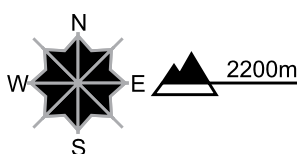
region A

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong to storm force westerly wind, sometimes large wind slabs formed during the night. The new snow and wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can in isolated cases reach large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of solar radiation moist loose snow avalanches are to be expected, even medium-sized ones. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep sunny slopes.

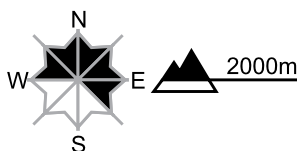
region B

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong to storm force westerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed during the night. These are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. Avalanches can be released easily and reach medium size.

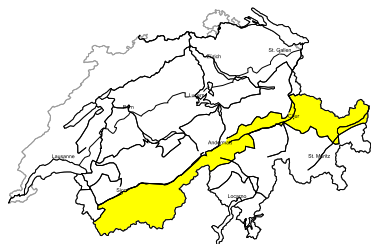
The wind slabs are to be avoided in steep terrain.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of solar radiation moist loose snow avalanches are to be expected, even medium-sized ones. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep sunny slopes.

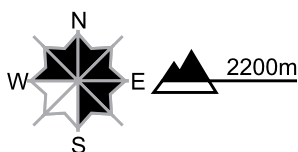
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong westerly wind, easily released wind slabs formed during the night. These are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. Avalanches can in some cases reach medium size.

The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

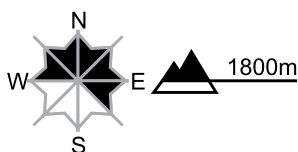
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

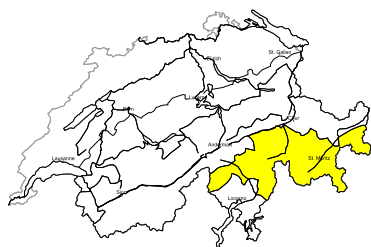
As a consequence of new snow and a strong to storm force westerly wind, easily released wind slabs formed during the night. These are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. Avalanches can in some cases reach medium size.

The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.



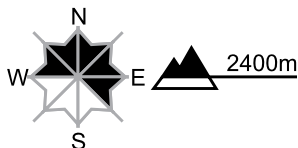
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh wind slabs are mostly small but can be released easily. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye.

The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep 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.

region F

Level 1, low



Wind slabs

Fresh wind slabs are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in the vicinity of peaks and in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 11.3.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of fresh snow and intermittently storm-strength westerly winds, the snowdrift accumulations will continue to grow in frequency and size during Thursday night. In the western and the northern regions they will be large-sized in some places, in the southern regions they will be small-to-medium sized. Fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering, particularly on north-facing and east-facing slopes.

In Grisons and in the Valais more than anywhere else, weak layers are still evident in the ground-level old snow above approximately 2200 to 2400 m in all aspects. Avalanches are currently unlikely to trigger in these deeply embedded weak layers of the snowpack.

Observed weather on Thursday, 11.03.2021

Following a night of partially clear skies there were extended bright intervals during the daytime hours. In the afternoon in western regions, heavy cloud cover moved in.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +5 °C in the Valais and in Grisons, +2 °C in the northern regions and -1 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds in the northern regions and in the Valais were frequently blowing at moderate to strong velocity, in Grisons blowing at increasingly moderate to strong velocity, and in the Ticino predominantly at light strength, from westerly to southwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Friday, 12.03.2021

On Thursday night, snowfall is anticipated over widespread areas. The snowfall level will swiftly descend from 1800 down to 1000 m. As morning approaches, skies are expected to clear up. In the northern regions skies will become increasingly overcast during the course of the day. In the southern regions it will remain rather sunny.

Fresh snow

By Friday morning the following amounts of fresh snow are expected above approximately 2000 m:

- northern and furthestmost western parts of Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm;
- northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm;
- remaining regions of Switzerland and on the summits of the western Jura region: 5 to 15 cm over widespread areas.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -5 °C in the northern regions and -2 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be blowing from westerly directions,

- frequently at strong-to-storm velocity during the nocturnal hours;
- during the daytime hours in the northern regions and at heightened altitudes in general, blowing predominantly at moderate strength; in the southern regions at light to moderate strength.

Outlook through Sunday, 14.03.2021

Saturday

In the southern regions it will be quite sunny. In the eastern regions, foehn-induced bright intervals are anticipated during the morning hours. Otherwise skies will be predominantly overcast. During the course of the day in the northern and western regions, snowfall is expected above approximately 1000 m. In the north and at heightened altitudes in general, an increasingly stormy southwesterly wind will be blowing.

Avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Sunday

In the northern regions, snowfall is expected above approximately 600 m. In the furthestmost southern regions it will be quite sunny. A strong-velocity northwesterly wind will be blowing.

Avalanche danger levels will increase over widespread areas, most intensively in the northern and the western regions.

Only in the furthestmost southern regions will the avalanche situation remain generally favourable.