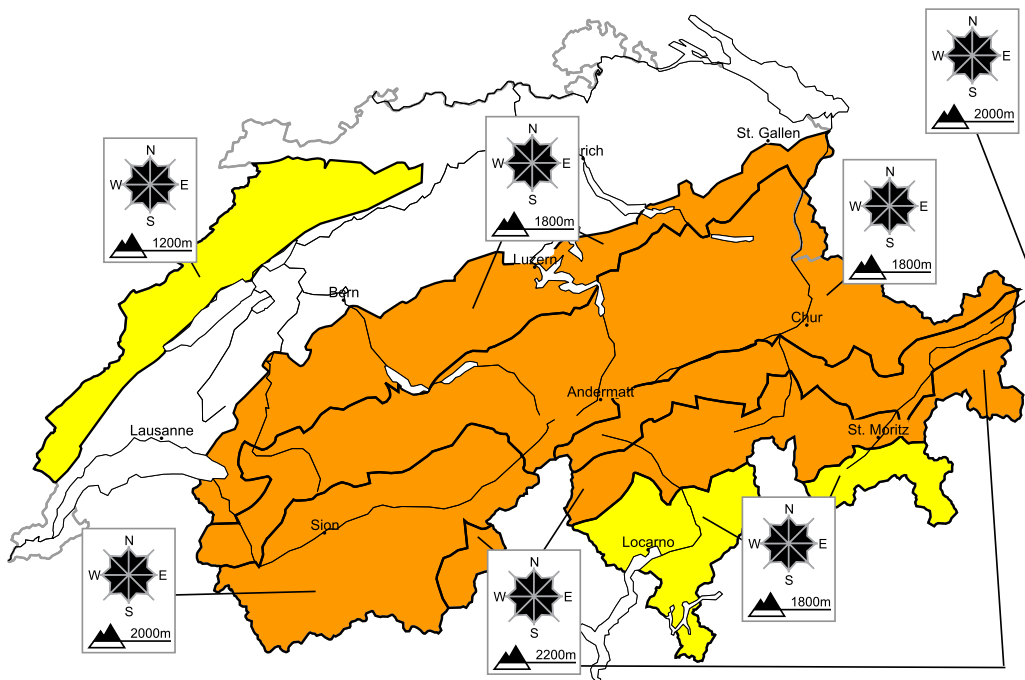


A lot of new snow. Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 17.3.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 17.3.2021, 17:00

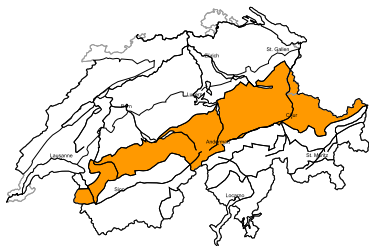
Avalanche danger

updated on 17.3.2021, 08:00



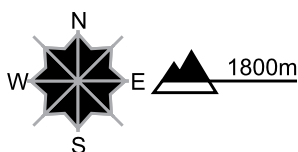
region A

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



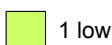
Danger description

New snow and wind slabs represent the main danger. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. Individual natural avalanches are further possible. From high-altitude starting zones avalanches can in isolated cases reach very large size and in isolated cases endanger transportation routes that are exposed. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

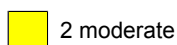
Gliding avalanches

An increasing number of gliding avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2000 m.

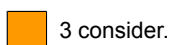
Danger levels



1 low



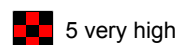
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

region B

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

New snow and wind slabs represent the main danger. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. Individual natural avalanches are further possible. From high-altitude starting zones avalanches can in isolated cases reach very large size and in isolated cases endanger transportation routes that are exposed. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Gliding avalanches

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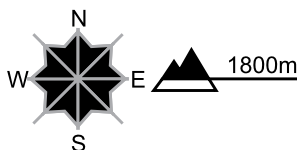
region C

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Gliding avalanches

An increasing number of gliding avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes.

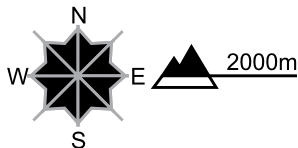
region D

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations

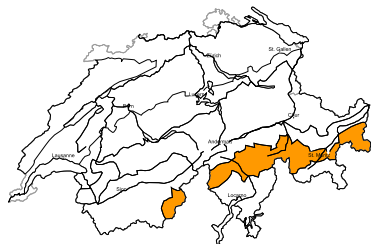


Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

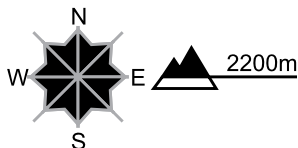
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

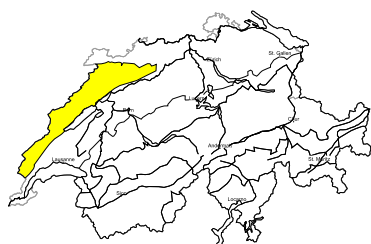


Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in steep terrain. Mostly avalanches are medium-sized. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

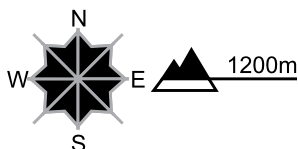
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

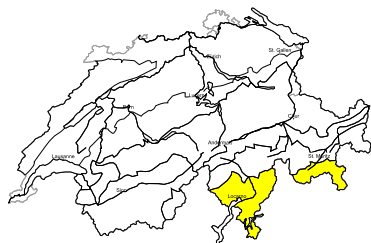


Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with new snow. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

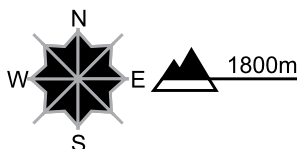
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are rather small but in some cases prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Careful route selection is important. 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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.3.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

At elevated altitudes, large quantities of the abundant fresh snow has been transported and deposited very irregularly. Only the old snow cover remains on some ridges and peaks. In some instances, very large amounts of drifted snow is lying in bowls. The fresh snow is settling, but only slowly because of the low temperatures. The bonding between the fresh snow and the old snowpack is unfavourable on little used north facing slopes in particular, otherwise it is already quite good in some instances. Fractures within the fresh snow and wind slab layers remain likely.

Isolated avalanches capable of reaching the valley bottom were observed on Tuesday, some of which were also registered by the automatic detection systems.

Weak layers in the old snow near the ground persist in all aspects in particular in Valais and Grisons above approximately 2200 to 2400 m. Avalanche releases in these deep weak layers cannot be entirely ruled out where the fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of recent days give rise to excessive loading.

Observed weather on Tuesday, 16.03.2021

The north was mostly very cloudy. The primary focus of the snowfall shifted slowly eastwards. In Valais in particular there were bright spells during the day; Ticino was quite sunny.

Fresh snow

In the north on Tuesday, a further 20 to 50 cm of snow fell. From Saturday evening until Tuesday afternoon, therefore, the following aggregate amounts of snow fell above approximately 1600 m:

- Lower Valais, regions north of a line between the Rhone and Rhine: 80 to 120 cm, but up to 170 cm in the far west and from the Urn Alps into the Glarus Alps
- Mattertal, Lower Visp valleys, Goms, southern Gotthard region, rest of northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine: 50 to 80 cm
- Saastal, Simplon region, northern Ticino excluding Bedretto, central Grisons, southern Lower Engadine: 20 to 40 cm; further south, a few centimetres or none

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -9 °C in the north and -6 °C in the south

Wind

- Strong, occasionally storm force, veering from northwesterly to northerly
- In Ticino, occasionally strong from the north
- Easing during the day, in the west in particular

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 17.03.2021

The north will be mostly very cloudy and snow will fall, even at low altitudes. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be fairly sunny.

Fresh snow

From Tuesday afternoon until Wednesday afternoon above approximately 1200 m:

- Jura, Lower Valais, regions north of a line between the Rhone and Rhine, Gotthard region, northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine: 10 to 25 cm, but up to 40 cm from the eastern Bernese Oberland into the Glarus Alps
- Southern Upper Valais, rest of northern Ticino, central Grisons, rest of Engadine: 5 to 10 cm; further south mostly dry

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -8 °C in the north and -5 °C in the south

Wind

Moderate to strong from northerly directions

Outlook through Friday, 19.03.2021**Thursday**

During the night the precipitation will cease in the northeast as well. During the day it will be mostly dry at first and, in the west and south in particular, partly sunny. In the afternoon dense cloud will build up again from the west. It will remain cold. The wind will be moderate at times from the north. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly. Solar radiation is expected to give rise to moist loose snow avalanches and gliding avalanches.

Friday

There will be variable to dense cloud cover, and a little snow will fall over a wide area. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.