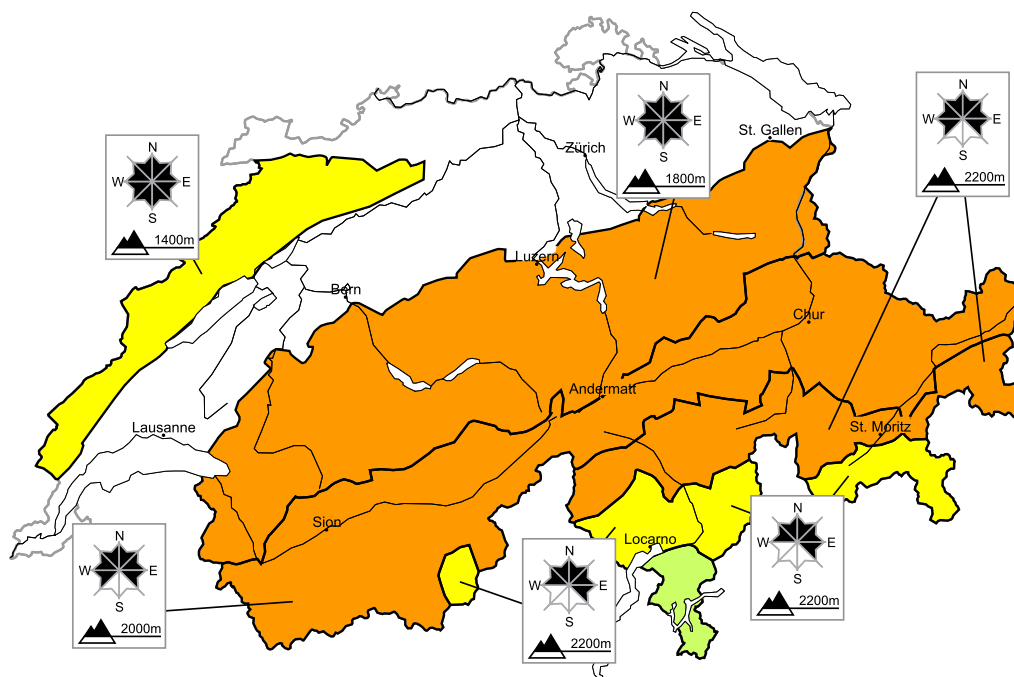


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 18.3.2021, 17:00 / Next update: 19.3.2021, 08:00

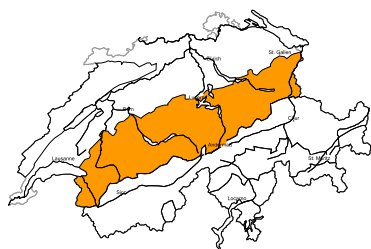
Avalanche danger

updated on 18.3.2021, 17:00



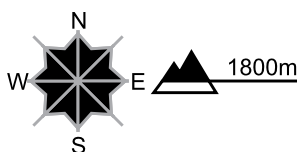
region A

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

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

Gliding avalanches

On steep east, south and west facing slopes gliding avalanches are possible, in particular below approximately 2000 m.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

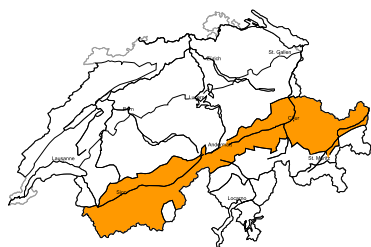
3 consider.

4 high

5 very high

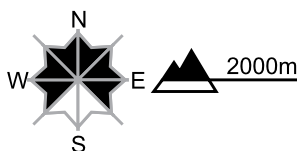
region B

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

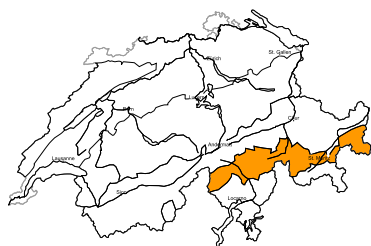
The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Gliding avalanches

On steep east, south and west facing slopes gliding avalanches are possible, in particular below approximately 2000 m.

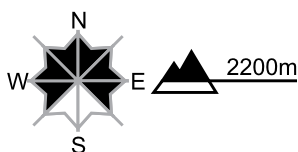
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

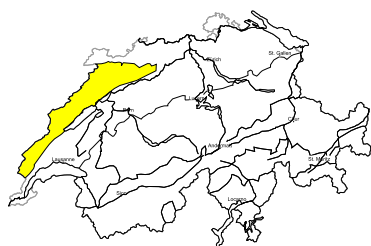


Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant. 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.

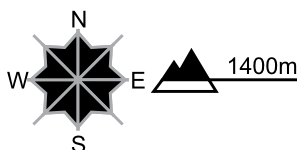
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



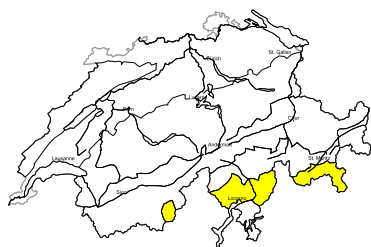
Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs can still be released in some cases. These are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. As a consequence of a strengthening bise wind, mostly small wind slabs will form in the course of the day. 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.



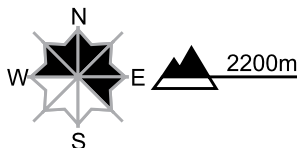
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

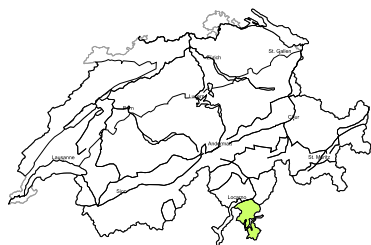


Danger description

The 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.

region F

Level 1, low



No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.



Snowpack and weather

updated on 18.3.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

The enormous masses of fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrifts from this week are gradually settling and consolidating. Combs and knolls are utterly windblown down to the old snowpack basis, in bowls there is a great deal of snowdrift. Beneath the fresh fallen and newly generated snowdrifts there is a weak layer which on north-facing slopes is particularly striking. There, more than anywhere else, and to some extent also inside the uppermost layers of fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrifts, avalanche triggerings are possible.

Observed weather on Thursday, 18.03.2021

On Wednesday night in the northern regions there was a small amount of additional snowfall registered down to low lying areas. During the daytime on Thursday, skies in the northern regions were variably cloudy, accompanied by sunny intervals and snow showers from place to place. In the southern and the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, it was quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon above approximately 1200 m, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered:

- northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Alps as far as Liechtenstein: 10 to 20 cm;
- Jura region, remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais, northern and central Grisons: 5 to 10 cm; in the other regions of Switzerland less, or else it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in the western and the southern regions, and -11 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

- Winds were blowing at light to moderate strength from northerly directions;
- in the Jura region and in the western Prealps, a moderate-strength bise wind was blowing.

Weather forecast through Friday, 19.03.2021

In the northern regions it will be partly sunny during the morning hours, in the afternoon it will become increasingly overcast accompanied by isolated snow showers extending down to low lying areas. In the southern regions skies will frequently be overcast accompanied by light snow showers in Sotto Ceneri and, amid isolated bright intervals, in particular in regions northwards therefrom.

Fresh snow

Just a few centimetres from place to place

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -8 °C in the northern regions and -6 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

In the Jura region and in the western Prealps, a moderate-strength bise wind will be blowing. In the other regions, winds will generally be light.

Outlook through Sunday, 21.03.2021

Saturday

In the northern and the eastern regions, skies will frequently be overcast and from place to place a small amount of snowfall is expected to fall down to low lying areas. In the Valais and in the southern region it will be partly sunny. As a consequence of strong-velocity northeasterly winds at heightened altitudes, and moderate-to-strong velocity bise winds in the Jura region and in the Prealps, easily triggered snowdrift accumulations are expected to be generated. Avalanche danger can increase somewhat from region to region.

Sunday

In the northern regions it will initially be sunny, subsequently increasingly overcast in the afternoon. In the Valais and in the southern regions, it will presumably be quite sunny. The northeasterly winds at heightened altitudes and the bise wind will be blowing at strong velocity in some areas. Avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.