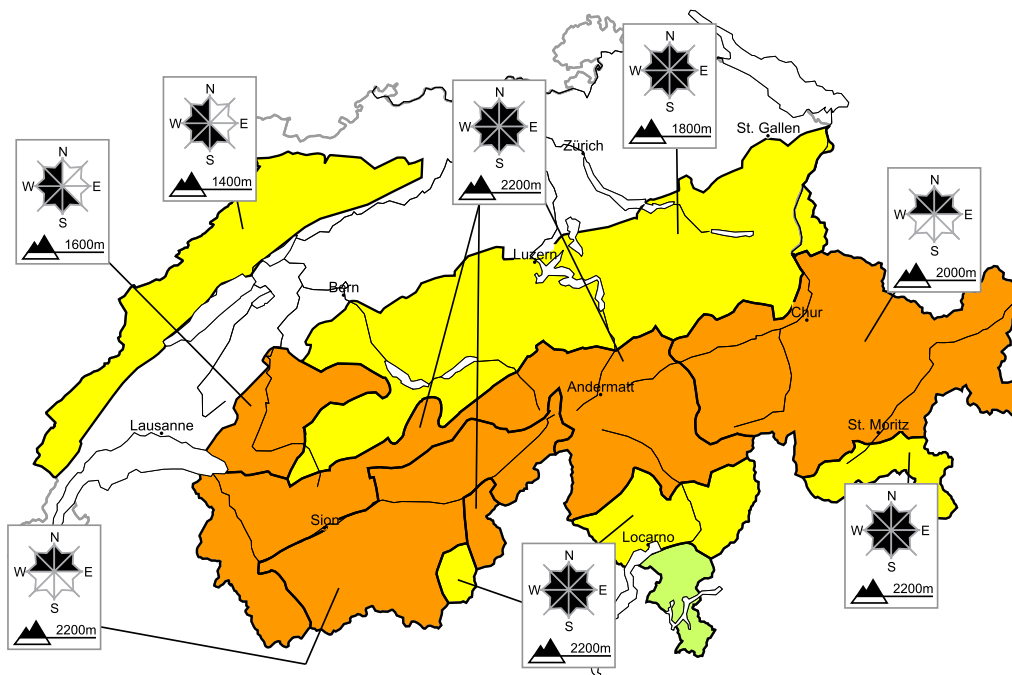


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 22.3.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 22.3.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 22.3.2021, 08:00



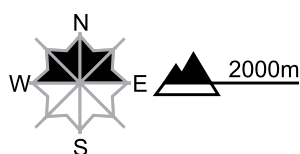
region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on steep west, north and east facing slopes. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger.

As a consequence of a moderate to strong northeasterly wind, further wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects.

Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

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

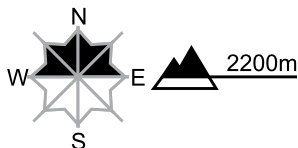
region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in near-surface layers and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on steep west, north and east facing slopes. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger.

As a consequence of a moderate to strong northeasterly wind, further wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects.

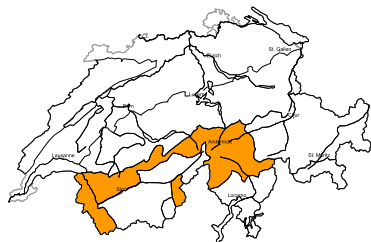
Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

On steep east, south and west facing slopes gliding avalanches are possible, in particular below approximately 2400 m.

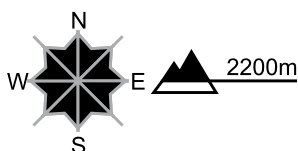
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of northeasterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last two days. At elevated altitudes they will increase in size additionally. Individual natural avalanches are possible, in particular medium-sized ones.

The wind slabs are to be avoided. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

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



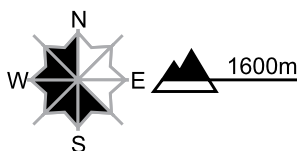
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

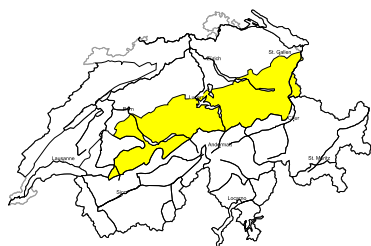
The wind slabs of the last two days represent the main danger. They can be released easily in some places. Avalanches can reach medium size. The wind slabs are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They are to be avoided in particular in steep terrain. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is recommended.

Gliding avalanches

On steep east, south and west facing slopes gliding avalanches are possible.

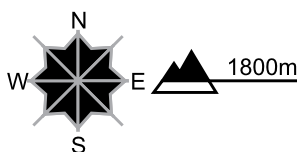
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

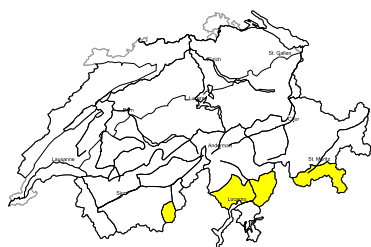
As a consequence of northeasterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of these avalanche prone locations will increase. In particular in high Alpine regions the wind slabs will increase in size once again. Careful route selection is required.

Gliding avalanches

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

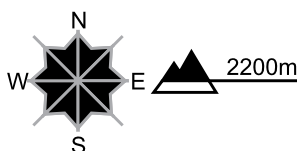
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

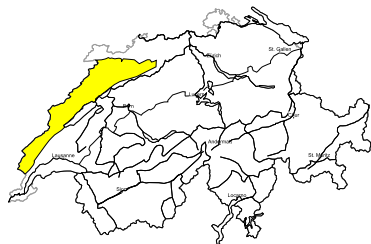


Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs 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 number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. 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.

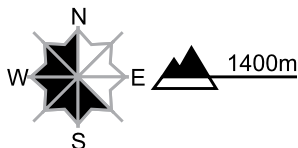
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of bise wind, wind slabs formed. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The wind slabs can in some cases be released easily. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized avalanches are possible. Careful route selection is required.

region H

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 21.3.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

Strong-velocity northerly winds are transporting the loosely-packed snow intensively. Particularly in high altitude zones, to some extent large snowdrift accumulations are being generated which are easily triggered.

The layers of fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts of the last week have been deposited atop a weak layer adjacent to the old snowpack surface. This weak layer is thickly blanketed-over on the northern flank of the Alps and is hardly capable of triggering. In the Valais and in Grisons, this layer is less thickly blanketed-over and is prone to triggering, particularly on north-facing, east-facing and to some extent also on west-facing slopes. In this transition of layers, several avalanches have been triggered by persons during the last few days, some of them of dangerously large size. Particularly in zones where the snow is shallow, isolated avalanches fractured down to deeply embedded, ground-level layers of the old snowpack in their plummet path.

Observed weather on Sunday, 21.03.2021

On Saturday night and during the morning hours on Sunday, cloud cover moved in from the northeast and there were light snow showers registered. In the Valais and in the southern regions it remain predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -1 °C in the southern regions, -4 °C in the western regions and -6 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

- In the Jura region and the western Prealps a moderate to strong velocity bise wind was blowing;
- at heightened altitudes, a moderate to strong velocity northeasterly wind was blowing, in the nocturnal hours to some extent at storm strength;
- in the southern regions a moderate-strength northerly wind was blowing, extending down to the upper valleys.

Weather forecast through Monday, 22.03.2021

On Sunday night on the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, skies will be overcast and a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. In the Valais skies will be partly clear, on the southern flank of the Alps predominantly so. During the course of the day on Monday in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in high alpine regions in general, it will become increasingly sunny, in the eastern regions skies will remain heavily overcast below approximately 2500 m. In the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps it will become predominantly sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Sunday evening and Monday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated down to low lying areas:

- in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern and central Grisons: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -9 °C in the northern regions and -5 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- In the Jura region and the western Prealps, a moderate to strong bise wind will be blowing;
- at heightened altitudes, a moderate to strong velocity northerly to northeasterly wind will be blowing;
- on the southern flank of the Alps, a moderate to strong northerly wind will be blowing, intermittently extending down to low lying areas.

Outlook through Wednesday, 24.03.2021

Tuesday

In the eastern regions above the banks of high fog it will be predominantly sunny. In the western and the southern regions it will be sunny. The northerly winds and the bise wind will slacken off. Temperatures are expected to rise in western and southern regions more than anywhere else, reaching approximately 0 °C at midday at 2000 m there.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches is expected to gradually decrease. The danger of wet-snow and gliding avalanches will increase somewhat in the western and southern regions on steep sunny slopes more than anywhere else during the course of the day;

Wednesday

It will be sunny, accompanied by light to moderate-strength northerly winds and in general somewhat warmer. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will incrementally decrease.

The danger of wet-snow and gliding avalanches will again be subject to a fluctuating daytime danger cycle.