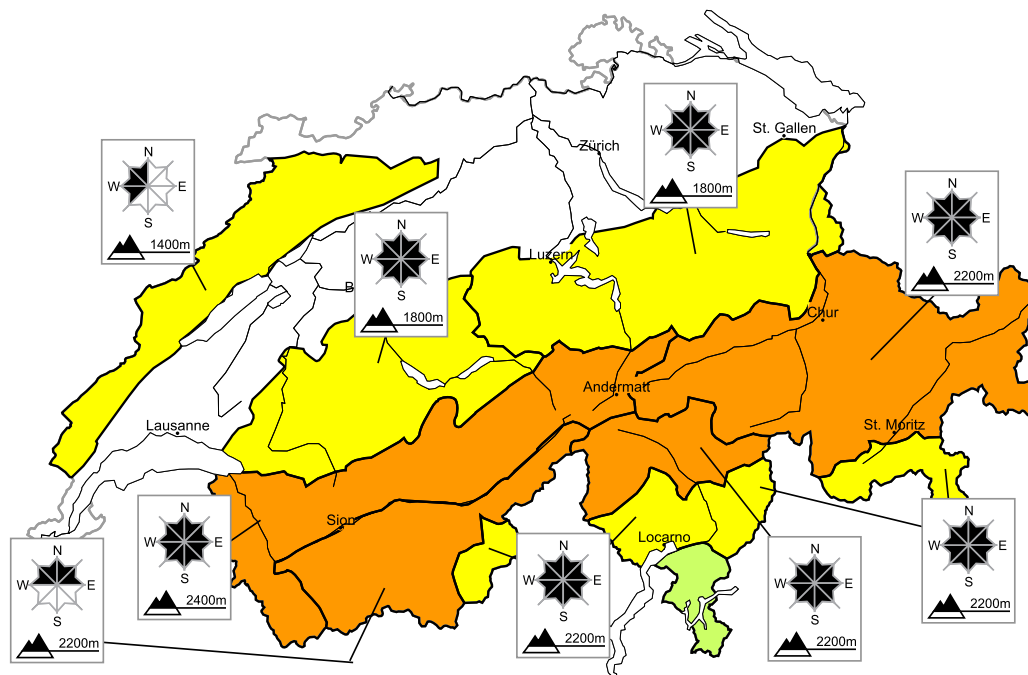


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 23.3.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 23.3.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 23.3.2021, 08:00

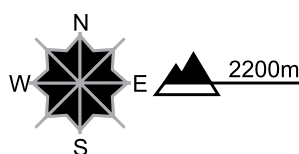


region A Level 3, considerable



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.

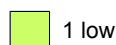
In the last three days avalanche prone wind slabs formed in particular at elevated altitudes. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects. Avalanches can reach medium size.

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

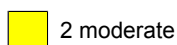
Gliding avalanches

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

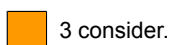
Danger levels



1 low



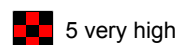
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

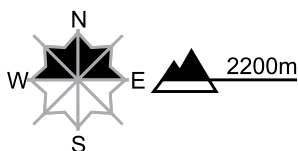
region B

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. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.

In the last two days avalanche prone wind slabs formed in particular at elevated altitudes. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects above approximately 2400 m. Avalanches can reach medium size.

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

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Below approximately 2400 m: On steep east, south and west facing slopes gliding avalanches are possible. In addition as the day progresses on south facing slopes, moist snow slides and avalanches are possible.

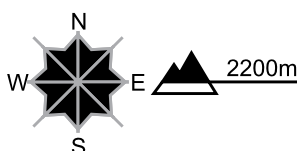
region C

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of northeasterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last three days. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach medium size. The wind slabs are to be avoided. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

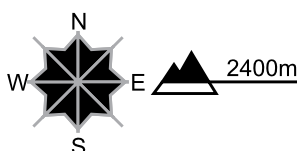
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of northeasterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last three days. These can be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach medium size. The wind slabs are to be avoided. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Below approximately 2400 m: On steep east, south and west facing slopes gliding avalanches are possible. In addition as the day progresses on south facing slopes, moist snow slides and avalanches are possible.

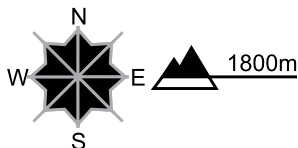
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of northeasterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last three days. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of these avalanche prone locations will increase. Careful route selection is required. The wind slabs are to be bypassed in particular in steep terrain.

Gliding avalanches

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

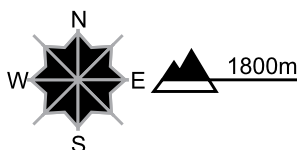
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of northeasterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last three days. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of these avalanche prone locations will increase. Careful route selection is required. The wind slabs are to be bypassed in particular in steep terrain.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Below approximately 2400 m: On steep east, south and west facing slopes gliding avalanches are possible. In addition as the day progresses on south facing slopes, moist snow slides and avalanches are possible.

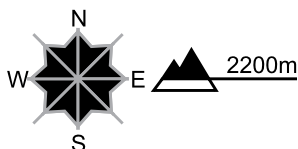
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of northeasterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed in the last three days. 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.

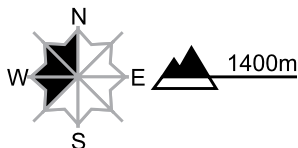
region H

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

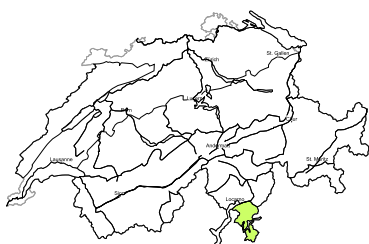


Danger description

The older wind slabs represent the main danger. Persons can release avalanches in some places. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized avalanches are possible. Careful route selection is required.

region I

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 22.3.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

The strong wind from northerly directions has transported large quantities of the loosely bonded snow that was lying in many locations. At high altitudes in particular, sometimes large snow drift accumulations have formed; these can be released easily. As the strong wind eases during Monday night, the period of snow transport will end. Last week's fresh snow and wind slab layers are lying on a weak layer close to the old snow surface. On the northern flank of the Alps this weak layer is embedded deep and no longer likely to release avalanches. In Valais and Grisons, it is nearer the surface and prone to fracturing on north and east facing slopes in particular, but also on west facing slopes in some instances. In this transitional boundary between layers, several avalanches, in some cases dangerously large ones, have been triggered by people in recent days. In particular in places with shallow snow cover, individual avalanches have penetrated near-ground layers of old snow in their track.

Observed weather on Monday, 22.03.2021

Sunday night in the north was predominantly very cloudy with light snowfall in the east in particular. The south was mostly clear. During the day it became increasingly sunny from the west, including at high altitudes as the upper cloud limit dropped. The south was mostly sunny.

Fresh snow

From Sunday afternoon until Monday afternoon down to low altitudes:

- Prättigau: 5 to 10 cm
- Central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, rest of northern and central Grisons: up to 5 cm
- Elsewhere: smaller amounts or none

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -2 °C in southern Valais and western Ticino, and -6 °C in the east

Wind

- Jura, western Prealps: moderate breeze
- Otherwise at elevated altitudes, moderate to strong northeasterly, occasionally storm force on the northern Alpine ridge and the main Alpine ridge

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 23.03.2021

On Monday night the amount of cloud will continue to decrease, including in the northeast. During the day it will be mostly sunny in Valais, and predominantly sunny in the east and south.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

Increasing; at midday at 2000 m: between 0 °C in the west, -3 °C in the south and -5 °C in the east

Wind

From northerly directions

- Easing during the night
- Light to moderate during the day

Outlook through Thursday, 25.03.2021

On each of the two days it will be sunny. On Thursday, high-altitude cloudbanks will pass over during the day and convective cloud will build up. The zero degree level will rise to approximately 2000 m, and a little higher in the west on Wednesday. At elevated altitudes the wind will be light to moderate, initially from the north, then from the west. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease slowly. The danger of wet snow and gliding avalanches will vary slightly during the day.