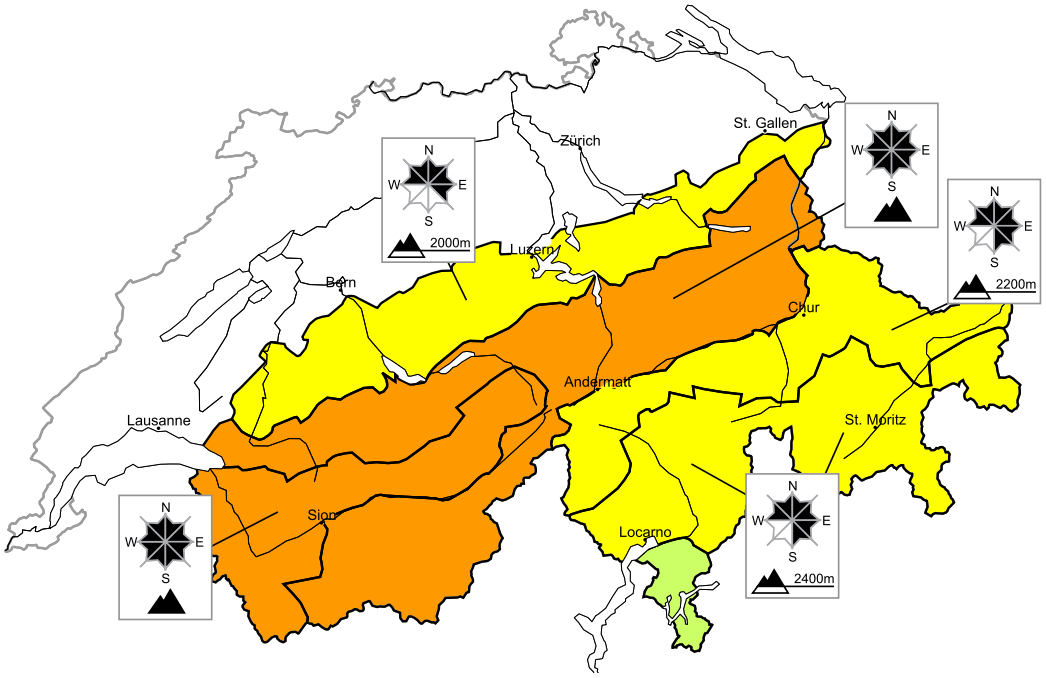
Considerable danger of dry and wet avalanches will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 7.5.2021, 17:00 / Next update: 8.5.2021, 17:00

Avalanche danger

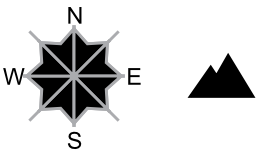
updated on 7.5.2021, 17:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in all aspects above approximately 2200 m. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. As a consequence of warming during the day and the solar radiation, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase.

Ski touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

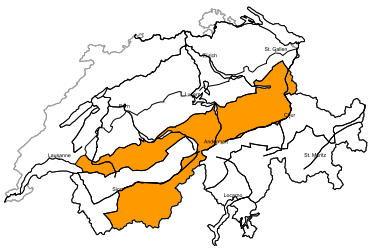
Wet avalanches as day progresses

The danger of wet avalanches will increase during the day, reaching danger level 3 (considerable). As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation numerous wet avalanches are to be expected, even large ones. This applies on east, south and west facing slopes in all altitude zones, as well as on north facing slopes below approximately 3000 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 consider. 4 high 5 very high

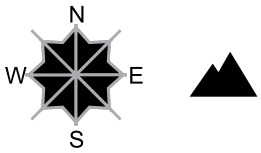
WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF
www.slf.ch

region B — Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular on west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. As a consequence of warming during the day and the solar radiation, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase.
Ski touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

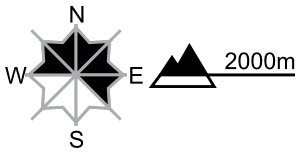
Wet avalanches as day progresses

The danger of wet avalanches will increase during the day, reaching danger level 3 (considerable). As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation numerous wet avalanches are to be expected, even large ones in isolated cases. This applies on east, south and west facing slopes in all altitude zones, as well as on north facing slopes below approximately 3000 m. Backcountry tours should be started early and concluded timely.

region C — Level 2, moderate

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of Friday are in some cases prone to triggering. They are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Avalanches can in some cases reach medium size.

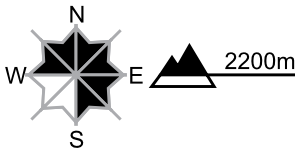
Wet avalanches as day progresses

In all aspects wet loose snow avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation. These can reach medium size.

region D — Level 2, moderate

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. They are rather small but in some cases prone to triggering. In high Alpine regions the avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is greater.
Careful route selection is recommended.

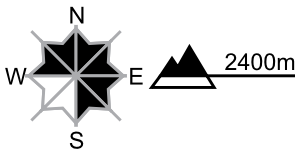
Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation wet loose snow avalanches are to be expected, even medium-sized ones.

region E — Level 2, moderate

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. They are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. In high Alpine regions the avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the danger is greater.
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.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation wet loose snow avalanches are to be expected, even medium-sized ones.

region F — Level 1, low

Wet avalanches

Only a little snow is lying. On north facing slopes individual gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 7.5.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

The layers of fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrift accumulations from Friday are prone to triggering in places. In the northern and western regions these drifts are deep, in the other regions of Switzerland relatively shallow. As a result of solar radiation and significant warming, numerous wet-snow avalanches can be expected to release from the fresh snow, beginning on sun-drenched slopes before anywhere else, subsequently also on north-facing slopes during the course of the day.

Observed weather on Friday, 07.05.2021

In the northern regions and in the Valais, there was frequent snowfall registered. The snowfall level lay between 1400 and 1700 m. During the course of the day the snowfall slackened off. In the southern regions there was only a small amount of fresh snow falling above 1800 m during the nighttime hours. During the daytime it was quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Between early Thursday morning and Friday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 2200 m:

- furthermost western part of Lower Valais, northern Valais: 50 to 80 cm;
- remaining parts of Lower Valais, Vaud Alps, eastern part of Bernese Oberland: 30 to 50 cm;
- remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Valais not including upper valleys of Visp: 15 to 30 cm;
- upper valleys of Visp, Bedretto valley, northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres; in the furthermost south it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the northern regions and +4 °C in the Ticino.

Wind

Winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity,

- during the nighttime hours from southwesterly directions;
- during the daytime from the northwest.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 08.05.2021

Following a night of clear skies it is expected to be rather sunny. During the course of the day it will become significantly warmer.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +6 °C in the western regions and +3 °C in the eastern and southern regions. During the afternoon, temperatures will continue to rise.

Wind

Winds will be predominantly light, in the high alpine regions blowing at moderate strength from southwesterly directions.

Avalanche bulletin through Saturday, 8 May 2021

Outlook through Monday, 10.05.2021

Sunday

Following a night of clear skies it will be warm and quite sunny. The zero-degree level will lie at 3500 m. During the course of the day, clouds will move into southern regions. At elevated altitudes an increasingly strong-to-storm velocity southwesterly wind will be blowing; in the Alpine valleys, foehn wind will prevail. Dry-snow avalanches can be triggered at high altitudes on very steep north-facing slopes more than anywhere else. During the course of the day, numerous wet-snow avalanches can be expected, in particular on sun-drenched slopes up to the high alpine regions, and on north-facing slopes below approximately 2500 m more than anywhere else.

Monday

In the southern regions, snowfall is anticipated above approximately 2400 m. In the northern regions, skies will be bright as a result of foehn influence. A storm-strength southerly wind will be blowing. Avalanche danger levels are expected to increase in the southern regions as a result of fresh snow. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, the main danger will be freshly generated snowdrift accumulations in high alpine regions. As a result of higher temperatures, wet-snow avalanches continue to be expected at intermediate and high altitudes.