Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 8 January 2022

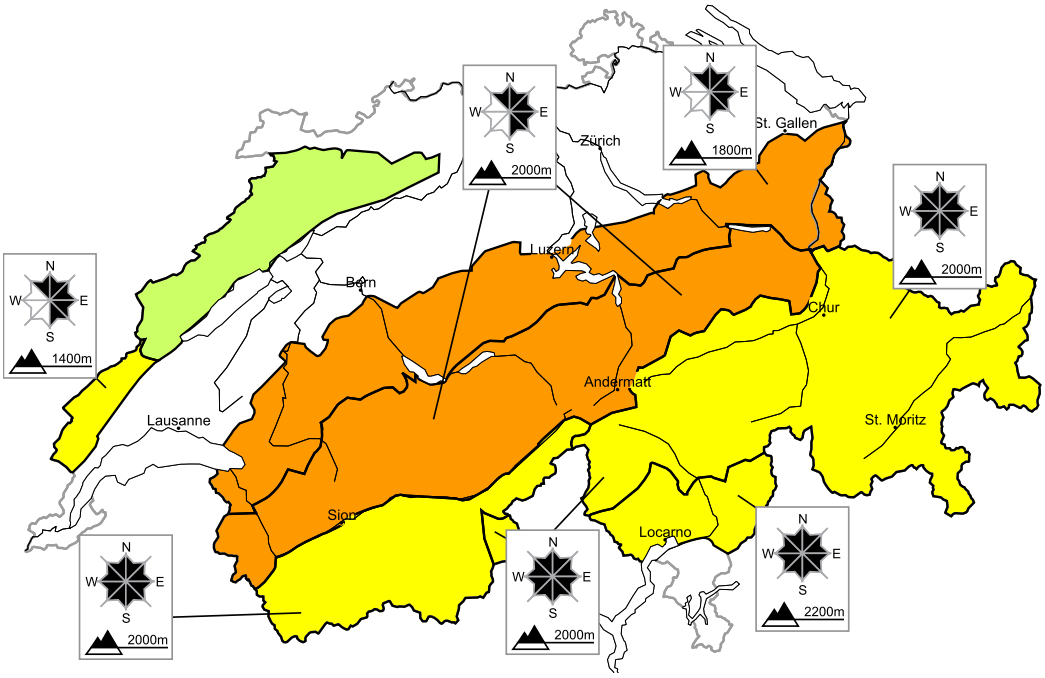
8.1.2022, 07:50

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Wind slabs are to be avoided

Edition: 8.1.2022, 08:00 / Next update: 8.1.2022, 17:00

Avalanche danger

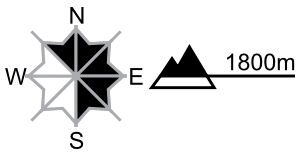
updated on 8.1.2022, 08:00



region A — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The sometimes strong wind has transported the new snow and, in some cases, old snow as well. Wind slabs are to be found also areas not adjacent to ridgelines.
The fresh wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant. In many cases avalanches are medium-sized.
The fresh wind slabs are to be avoided in steep terrain. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

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

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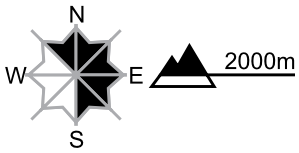
region B — Level 3, considerable

Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



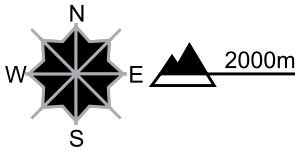
Danger description

The sometimes strong wind will transport the new snow and, in some cases, old snow as well. Wind slabs are to be found also areas not adjacent to ridgelines. The fresh wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant. In many cases avalanches are medium-sized. At elevated altitudes the avalanche prone locations are more prevalent.
The fresh wind slabs are to be avoided in steep terrain. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region C — Level 2, moderate

Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be found in all aspects. As a consequence of the strong wind the wind slabs will increase in size as the day progresses. In the afternoon danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached in high Alpine regions. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.
Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. This applies in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes above approximately 2400 m. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Defensive route selection is advisable.

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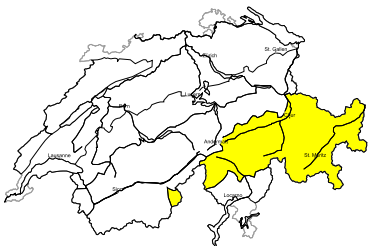
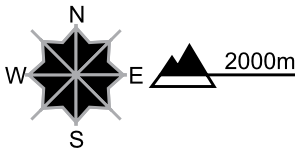
region D — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, old snow

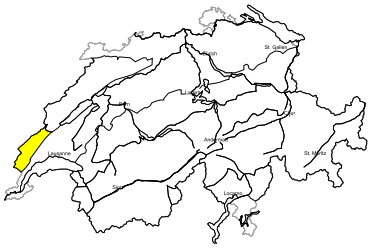
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

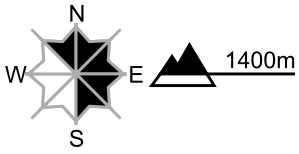
The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be found in all aspects. At elevated altitudes the avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and larger. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.
Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. This applies in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes above approximately 2400 m. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Defensive route selection is advisable.

region E — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



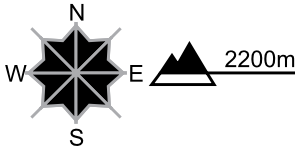
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and wind, wind slabs formed. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Mostly the avalanches are small. 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 2, moderate

No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Only a small amount of snow is lying for the time of year.

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on very steep slopes. The somewhat older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Mostly the avalanches are small. 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.

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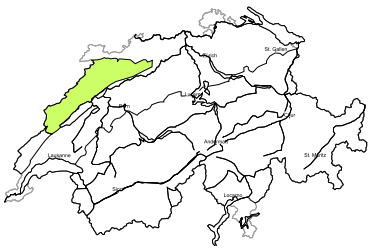
region G

Level 1, low



Wind slabs

From a snow sport perspective, in most cases insufficient snow is lying.
Wind slabs are only small. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in extreme terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 7.1.2022, 17:00

Snowpack

The fresh fallen snow of the last few days and the freshly created snowdrift accumulations which often were generated by strong-velocity winds were deposited on top of an old snowpack surface which was strikingly marked by rain, wind and sun, in some places was also iced-over. On the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else there is a small amount of loose snow on the surface over widespread areas which can be transported by strong-velocity westerly winds on Friday night.
In particular from the central Valais over the northern Ticino as far as Grisons, very isolated avalanches can be triggered in the old snow at high altitudes. This applies to expansively metamorphosed (faceted) loose-snow layers either immediately beneath the rain crust which formed at the end of December or more deeply embedded inside the snowpack.

Observed weather on Friday, 07.01.2022

Following a clear and cold night, skies were frequently overcast during the daytime. During the afternoon in the western and northern regions there was a small amount of snowfall down to low lying regions.

Fresh snow
in the western and the northern regions, only a few centimetres.

Temperature
Temperatures at midday at 2000 m, -7 °C.

Wind
- Nocturnal winds were light;
- during the daytime increasing in velocity, in the afternoon blowing at strong velocity in some places in the eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, from westerly directions.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 08.01.2022

A small amount of snowfall is anticipated during the nighttime hours, falling down to low lying areas. During the daytime there will be intermittent sunshine before snowfall will set in once again during the afternoon. In the furthermost southern regions it will be dry and sunny in many places.

Fresh snow
Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon:
- northern flank of the Alps, Grisons north of Anterior Rhine, Jura region: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; in the furthermost southern regions i will remain dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: -9 °C.

Wind
- Winds during the nocturnal hours will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity, intermittently at storm strength on the northern flank of the Alps and at high altitudes in general, temporarily from westerly directions;
- during the daytime at high altitudes and in the southern regions, strong-velocity northerly winds; in the other regions of Switzerland moderate strength westerly winds.

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Outlook through Monday, 10.01.2022

Sunday

Skies will be heavily overcast, accompanied by snowfall down to low lying areas. In the northern and the western regoins, 20 to 40 cm of fresh snow is anticipated, in the other regions of Switzerland less. In the furthermost southern regions it will be sunny. Winds during the nighttime hours in northern and western regions will be blowing at storm strength, in the other regions frequently at strong velocity.
In the northern and the western regions avalanche danger levels will increase significantly and naturally triggered avalanches are also expected. In the remaining regions of Switzerland avalanche danger is expected to increase somewhat. In the furthermost southern regions, avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.

Monday

During the night in the northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. During the daytime in the western and the southern regions it will be quite sunny, in the eastern regions skies will be overcast but it will remain dry for the most part. At high altitudes and in the southern regions, a strong-velocity northerly wind will be blowing.
In the northern and the western regions, avalanche danger is expected to decrease. In Grisons and the southern regions, danger levels are not expected to change significantly.