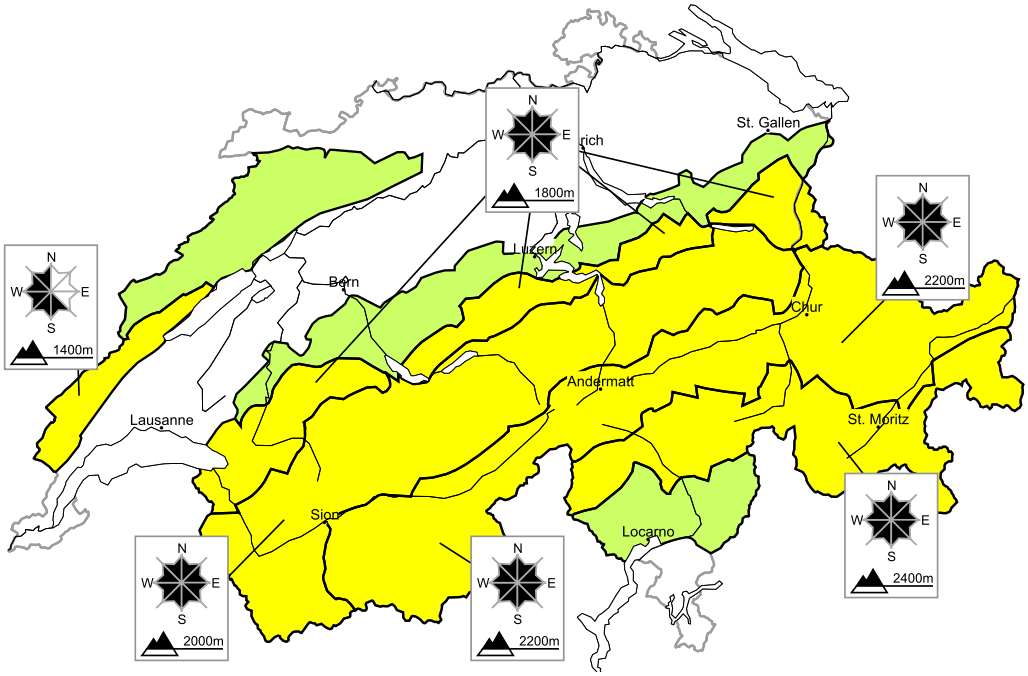
Moderate avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

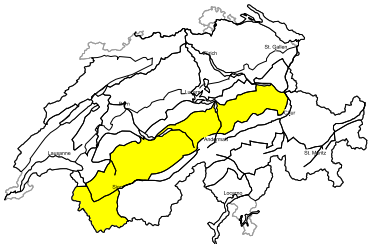
Edition: 13.1.2022, 08:00 / Next update: 13.1.2022, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 13.1.2022, 08:00

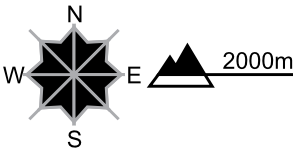


region A — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs represent the main danger. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

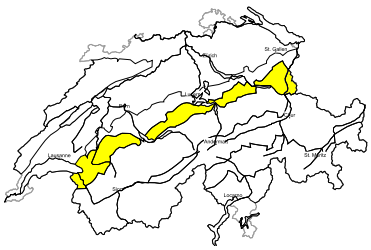
Gliding avalanches

Especially on very steep sunny slopes more frequent small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

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

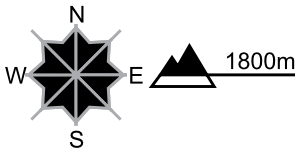
WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF
www.slf.ch

region B — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



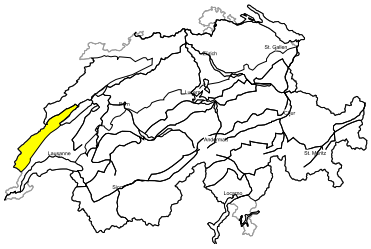
Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate to strong bise wind, wind slabs formed in the last few days especially adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

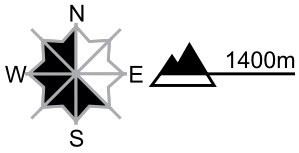
Especially on very steep sunny slopes more frequent small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

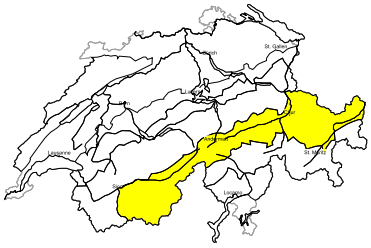
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

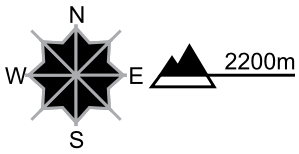
As a consequence of a strong to storm force bise wind, wind slabs formed in the last few days especially adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. These can still be released in some cases. Mostly avalanches are rather small. Careful route selection is advisable.

region D — Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs are in individual cases still prone to triggering. Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.

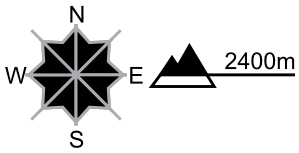
Careful route selection is recommended.

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

region E — Level 2, moderate

No distinct avalanche problem

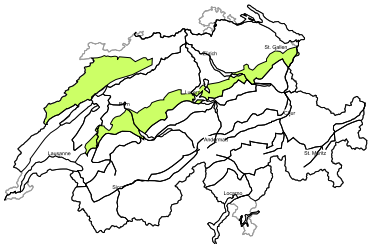
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found on very steep slopes. The older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence especially in terrain where there is a danger of falling. 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



Wind slabs

As a consequence of a moderate to strong bise wind, mostly small wind slabs formed adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. 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.

region G — Level 1, low

No distinct avalanche problem

Only a small amount of snow is lying for the time of year. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found on extremely steep shady slopes. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.
The Avalanche Warning Service currently has only a small amount of information, so that the avalanche danger should be investigated especially thoroughly in the relevant locality.

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 12.1.2022, 17:00

Snowpack

The snowdrift accumulations of the last few days are still prone to triggering to some extent. In addition, avalanches can be triggered in a weak layer or beneath the rain crust which formed at the end of December from place to place. Particularly from the central Valais over the northern Ticino as far as Grisons, weak layers more deeply embedded inside the snowpack are evident. However, no further avalanche triggerings have been registered in these layers during the last few days.
As a result of solar radiation and daytime warming, particularly on the northern flank of the Alps on very steep south-facing slopes, gliding avalanches and loose-snow avalanches can be expected.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 12.01.2022

Following a night of clear skies it was quite sunny in the mountains during the daytime.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the western regions and -3 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

- Jura region, Prealps: moderate to strong-velocity bise wind;
- southern flank of the Alps as well as at high altitudes in general: strong-velocity northeasterly winds in some places;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, predominantly light winds.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 13.01.2022

Following a night of clear skies, it will be quite sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +3 °C in the western regions and 0 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

Jura region, Prealps, high alpine regions: moderate to strong-velocity winds from easterly to northeasterly directions; in the other regions of Switzerland, predominantly light winds.

Outlook through Saturday, 15.01.2022

Following nights of clear skies it will be sunny and very mild in the mountains. The zero-degree level will lie at approximately 3000 m.
The danger of dry-snow avalanches will continue to decrease. As a result of the mild temperatures and solar radiation, wet-snow and gliding snow avalanches will be possible on very steep sunny slopes.