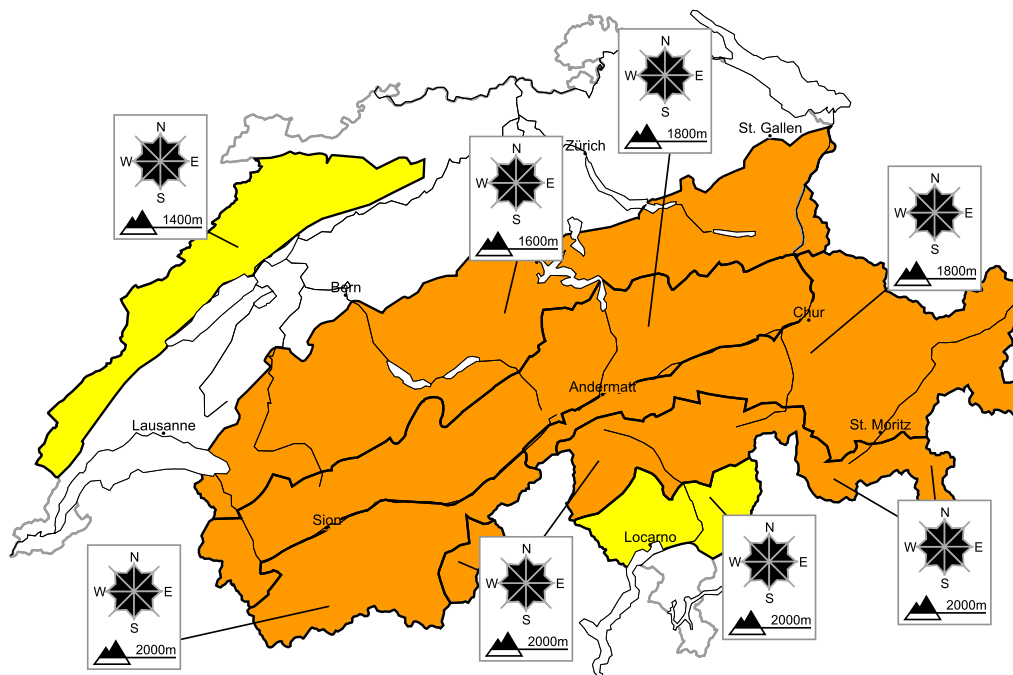


For those venturing off piste a critical avalanche situation will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 8.2.2022, 08:00 / Next update: 8.2.2022, 17:00

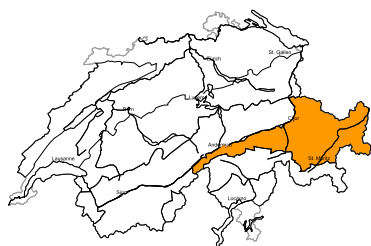
Avalanche danger

updated on 8.2.2022, 08:00



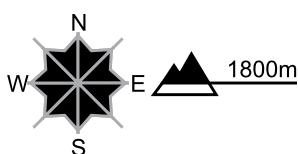
region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, new snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a storm force northwesterly wind, deep wind slabs formed. The new snow and wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach very large size in isolated cases. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. In addition further very occasional natural avalanches are possible.

The conditions are critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities. This also applies in steep starting zones in areas close to the tree line. Caution and restraint are required.

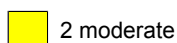
Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist loose snow avalanches are to be expected. Individual gliding avalanches are possible.

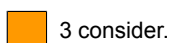
Danger levels



1 low



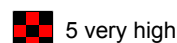
2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high



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

region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, new snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

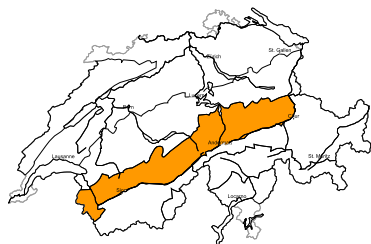
As a consequence of new snow and a storm force northwesterly wind, deep wind slabs formed. The new snow and wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach very large size in isolated cases. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. The conditions are critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities. Caution and restraint are required.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist loose snow avalanches are to be expected. Individual gliding avalanches are possible.

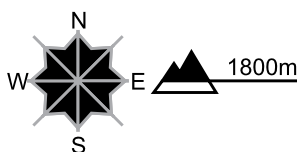
region C

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a storm force northwesterly wind, large wind slabs formed in areas not adjacent to ridgelines. The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist loose snow avalanches are to be expected. Gliding avalanches are possible.

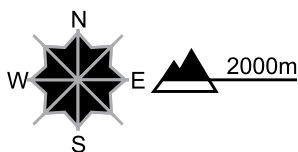
region D

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a storm force northwesterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed. They are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on west to north to east facing aspects. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

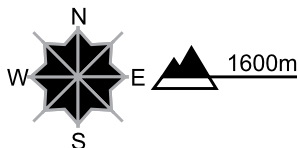
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

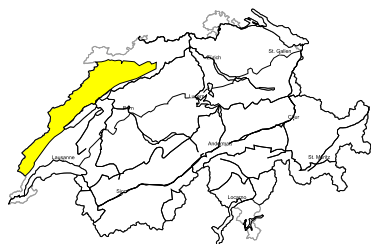
As a consequence of new snow and a storm force northwesterly wind, sometimes large wind slabs formed. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist loose snow avalanches are to be expected. Gliding avalanches are possible.

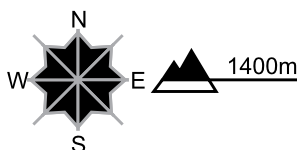
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

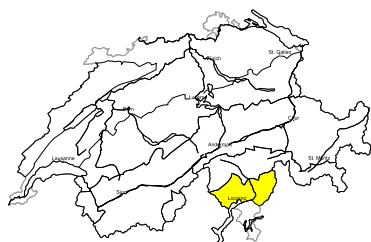
As a consequence of new snow and a storm force westerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed. Winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places, including medium-sized ones. The fresh wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides are to be expected. Individual gliding avalanches are possible.

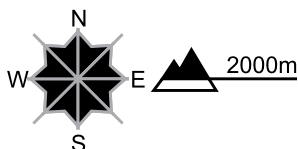
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The storm force foehn wind has transported the fresh and old snow. Avalanche prone 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 fresh wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 7.2.2022, 17:00

Snowpack

Monday's winter storm brought precipitation over a wide area and transported large quantities of fresh and old snow. In locations situated some distance from ridgelines, sometimes large snow drift accumulations have formed. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering, and avalanches can be released easily. Distinct weak layers exist deeper in the snowpack in particular on west, north and east facing slopes. On the northern flank of the Alps these are mostly covered by thick layers of snow and therefore less prone to triggering. From southern Valais through northern Ticino to Grisons, in many places all the old snow near the ground is faceted. In these regions over the weekend several large avalanches, and in isolated cases very large avalanches, were triggered by people. Further releases of this kind remain possible.

Observed weather on Monday, 07.02.2022

On Sunday night, heavy precipitation commenced. The snowfall level initially rose from 800 m to approximately 1400 m before dropping to low altitudes. During the day it was very cloudy at first, and in the east snowfall persisted until the afternoon. In the west the precipitation ceased in the morning and it became increasingly sunny. In the south only a little precipitation fell, and during the day it was fairly sunny.

Fresh snow

From Sunday afternoon until Monday afternoon above 1600 m:

- Northern Alpine ridge, Valais excluding both the Visp valleys and the southern Simplon region, rest of the Gotthard region, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 25 to 40 cm
- Jura, remaining regions on the northern flank of the Alps, Saastal, southern Simplon region, central Grisons, rest of Lower Engadine: 10 to 25 cm
- Further south: 5 to 10 cm

Because of the storm, the fresh snow was deposited very irregularly.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between -10 °C in the north and -7 °C in the south

Wind

- In the north initially from the southwest to west, then from the northwest: strong to storm force, severe storm in the high Alpine regions. In the course of the afternoon easing from the west.
- In the south, a strong northerly wind even in the lowlands

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 08.02.2022

In the east, cloudbanks will linger in the morning but it will be mostly sunny elsewhere. Temperatures will rise significantly from the west.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

Increasing, at midday at 2000 m: between +2 °C in the southwest and -4 °C in the northeast

Wind

- In the north, light to moderate from westerly directions
- In the south and generally at elevated altitudes, moderate to strong from the north

Outlook through Thursday, 10.02.2022

On both days it will be sunny and mild. The zero degree level will rise towards 3500 m on Wednesday before falling to 2500 m again on Thursday. At elevated altitudes the wind will be light to moderate on Wednesday and moderate to strong on Thursday, from westerly directions.

The danger of dry avalanches will decrease, but only slowly on shady slopes. In the inner Alpine regions in particular, the situation will remain critical for snow sport participants venturing off piste. Under the influence of solar radiation and daytime warming, the danger of wet snow and gliding avalanches will increase during each of the coming days.