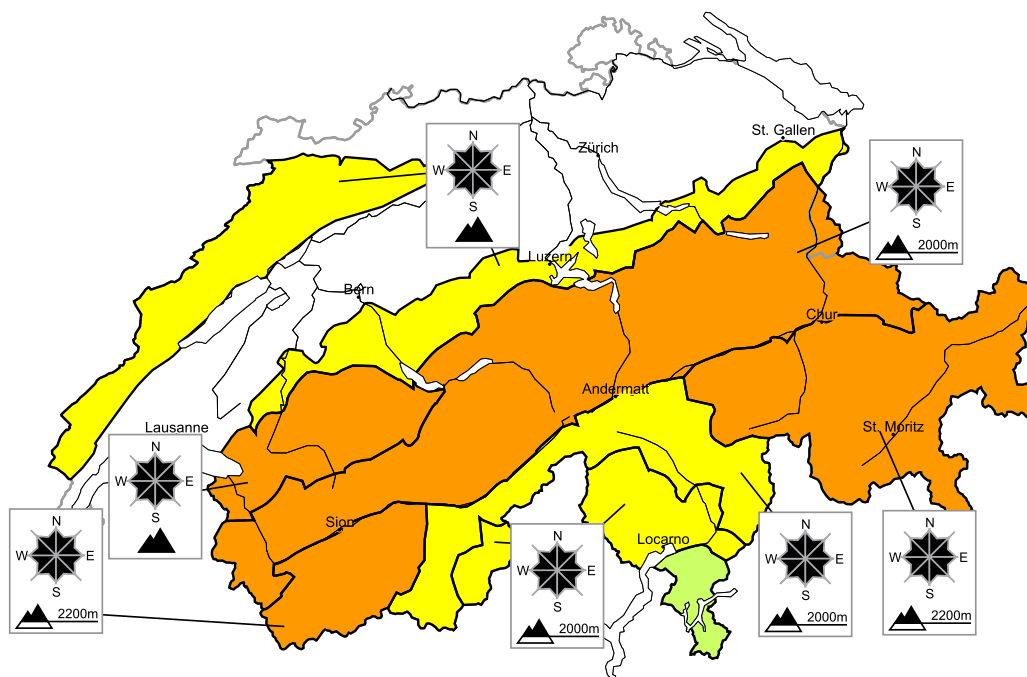


Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 17.2.2022, 08:00 / Next update: 17.2.2022, 17:00

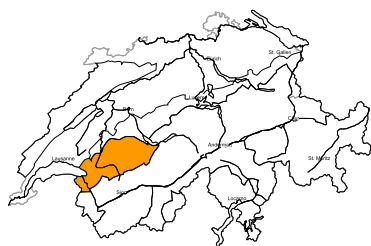
Avalanche danger

updated on 17.2.2022, 08:00



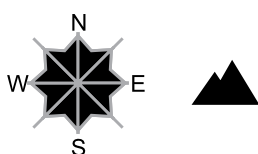
region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, new snow, wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. The avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found above approximately 2000 m. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. As a consequence of the rain natural avalanches are to be expected. In particular on steep west, north and east facing slopes these can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size in some cases. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

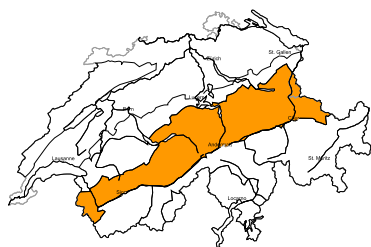
5 very high



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region B

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

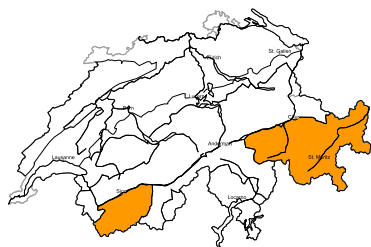
As a consequence of new snow and wind the wind slabs will increase in size additionally. The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2200 m.

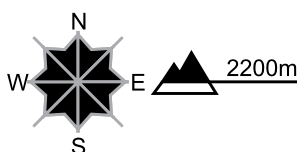
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

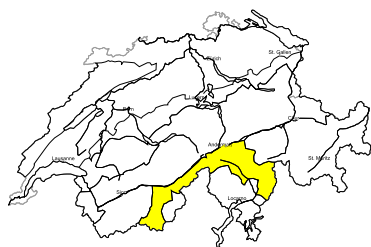
Weak layers in the old snowpack can be released by people in particular on steep, little used west, north and east facing slopes. This applies in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Avalanches can reach dangerously large size. In highly frequented off-piste terrain and on popular backcountry touring routes the situation is a little more favourable. In addition the fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. These are to be found adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls and generally at elevated altitudes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain small to medium-sized moist and wet snow slides are possible below approximately 2000 m.

region D

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

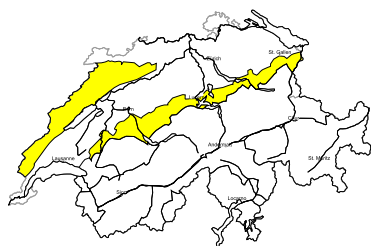
Weak layers in the old snowpack can be released in some places by people in particular on steep, little used west, north and east facing slopes. This applies in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Avalanches can reach medium size. In addition the fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases. These are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

Wet avalanches

Individual moist and wet snow slides are possible below approximately 2000 m.

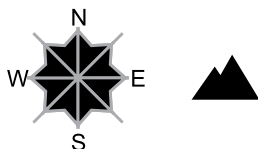
region E

Level 2, moderate



Wet avalanches

Avalanche prone locations

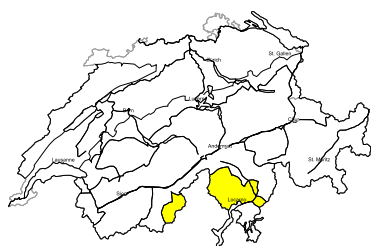


Danger description

As a consequence of the rain small and medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected. Caution is to be exercised in particular in extremely steep terrain.

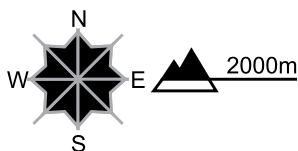
region F

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

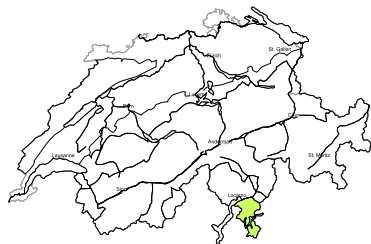


Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size, in particular on steep north facing slopes. Careful route selection is recommended.

region G

Level 1, low

**Wind slabs**

The more recent wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls above approximately 1800 m. 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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.2.2022, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of fresh fallen snow and winds, snowdrift accumulations are being further generated particularly at high altitudes. They are prone to triggering.

Below approximately 1800 to 2200 m, the snowpack has been moistened from the rainfall, thus, increasingly frequent naturally triggered avalanches can be expected. Due to the unfavourable snowpack layering, these releases can fracture down to more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack, particularly on shady slopes in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps.

From the southern Valais over the northern Ticino as far as Grisons, equally pronounced weak layers are evident inside the old snowpack. Particularly in seldom-frequented west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes, avalanches can be triggered in these deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack, in isolated cases also large-sized releases.

Observed weather on Wednesday, 16.02.2022

In the wake of an interim in the precipitation, snowfall once again set in from the west during the course of the day. The snowfall level ascended swiftly coming from the west, in the Jura region to 1000 m to 1400 m, in the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps to 1400 to 1800 m. In the valleys and in the eastern and the southern regions, the snowfall level lay significantly lower down.

Fresh snow

In the Jura region as well as in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, 5 to 10 cm of fresh fallen snow has been registered at high altitudes since early morning. Thus, since Monday evening the following amounts of fresh snow have been registered above approximately 1800 m:

- western part of Jura region, northern Alpine Ridge, eastern Ticino, Moesano, Upper Engadine, Val Bregaglia, Val Poschiavo: 20 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 10 to 20 cm over widespread areas, in the southern part of Upper Valais and in the northwestern part of Ticino, less.

Temperature

Temperatures at midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the western regions and -2 °C in the eastern and the southern regions, continuing to rise during the afternoon.

Wind

- Winds in the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps were blowing at moderate to strong velocity from westerly to southwesterly directions;
- in the Ticino and in Grisons, blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly to northwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 17.02.2022

In the western and the northern regions, skies will be heavily overcast for the most part and snowfall is anticipated. In the Ticino and in central and southern Grisons, it will be predominantly dry and partly sunny during the daytime. The snowfall level during the nocturnal hours will lie at 2000 to 2200 m in the western and the northern regions, in the southern and the eastern regions at 1600 to 1800 m. During the daytime the snowfall level will descend incrementally to approximately 1400 m.

Fresh snow

Between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected above approximately 2200 m:

- Lower Valais on the French border, northern Alpine Ridge: 15 to 30 cm;
- remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of the Valais, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 5 to 15 cm;

In the Jura region and in the Valais as well as on the northern flank of the Alps below approximately 2000 m, 10 to 30 mm of rainfall is anticipated.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, 0 °C in the northern regions and +3 °C in the southeastern regions.

Wind

Winds will be blowing at strong to storm-strength from westerly to northwesterly directions.

Outlook through Saturday, 19.02.2022

Friday

On Friday it will be quite sunny and very mild. The zero-degree level will lie at approximately 3000 m. At high altitudes an ongoing strong-velocity westerly wind will be blowing. As a result of higher temperatures and solar radiation, wet-snow and gliding avalanches continue to be possible. The danger of dry-snow avalanches is expected to incrementally decrease.

Saturday

On Friday night and during the day on Saturday, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated in the northern regions. The snowfall level will descend down to low lying areas. As a result of lower temperatures, the danger of wet-snow avalanches will significantly decrease. In the northern regions, a slight increase in the danger of dry-snow avalanches can be expected as a result of the freshly generated snowdrift accumulations.