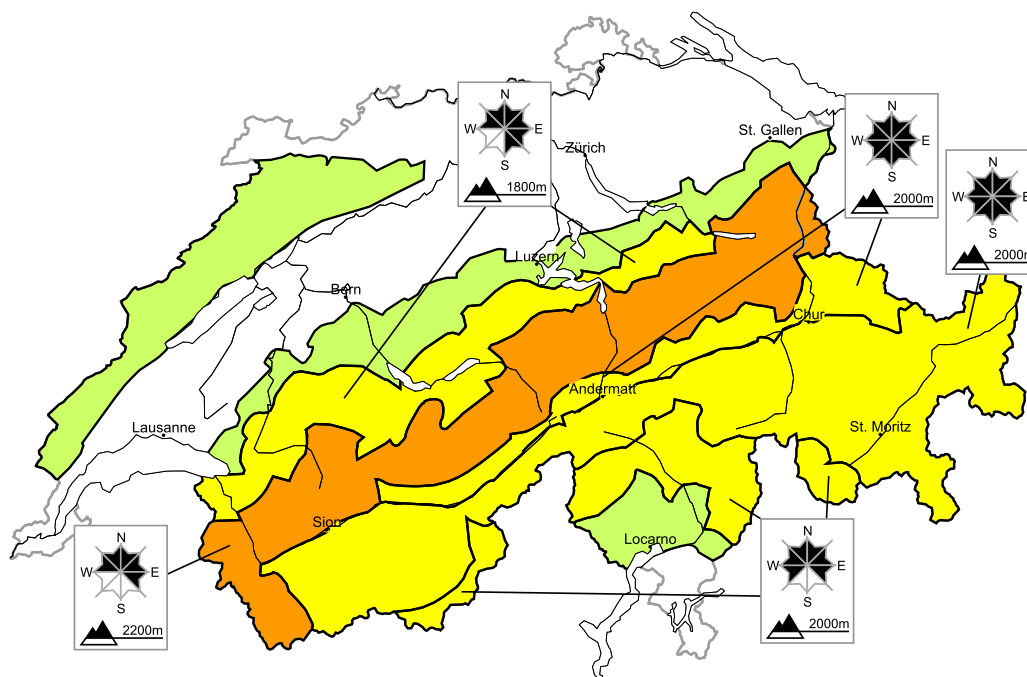


At elevated altitudes a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 19.2.2022, 08:00 / Next update: 19.2.2022, 17:00

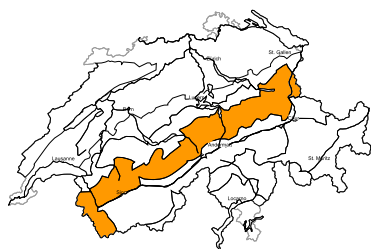
Avalanche danger

updated on 19.2.2022, 08:00



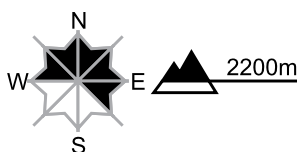
region A

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

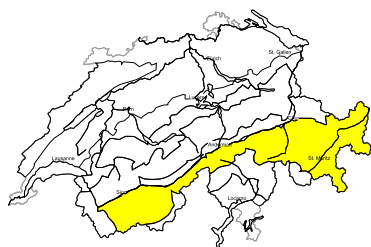
As a consequence of new snow and northwesterly wind, easily released wind slabs will form. In addition the somewhat older wind slabs of the last three days are capable of being triggered in isolated cases still. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including dangerously large ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

More small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

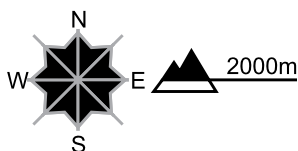
region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

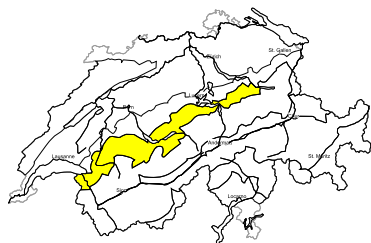


Danger description

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 more recent wind slabs should be taken into account. The prevalence of these avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

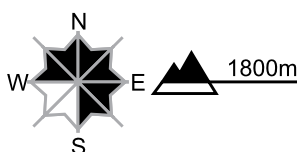
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

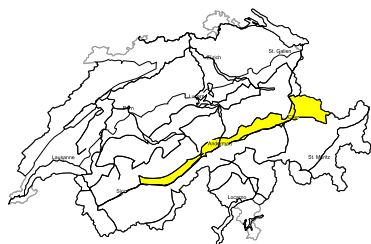
As a consequence of new snow and northwesterly wind, easily released wind slabs will form. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places, including medium-sized ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

More small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

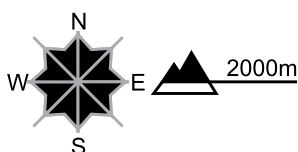
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

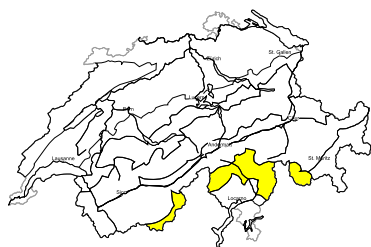


Danger description

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. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on very steep north facing slopes. Careful route selection is recommended.

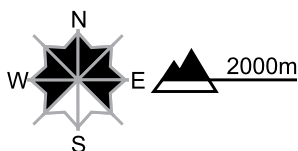
region E

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

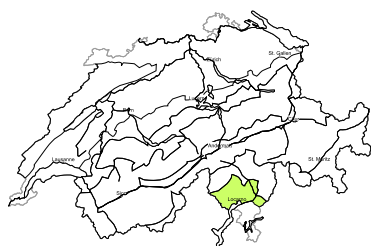


Danger description

In very isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on very steep north facing slopes. In addition the wind slabs of the last few days are capable of being triggered in some cases still. Careful route selection is recommended.

region F

Level 1, low

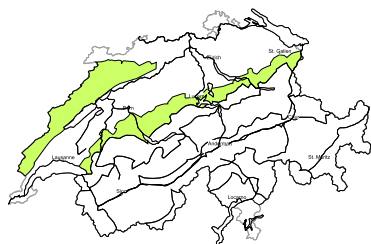


Old snow

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found especially on shady slopes above approximately 2000 m. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls. Caution is to be exercised in particular in extremely steep terrain.

region G

Level 1, low



Wind slabs

As a consequence of new snow and westerly wind, small wind slabs will form. Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 18.2.2022, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of rainfall, the snowpack from the Valais over the northern flank of the Alps as far as northern and central Grisons became moistened up to altitudes of approximately 2200 to 2400 m on Thursday. As a result of the drastic drop in temperatures which is forecast, the snowpack will increasingly consolidate.

The deep snowdrift accumulations which were generated in some areas over the last few days are continuing to stabilise further. As a result of fresh snow and winds, however, fresh snowdrift accumulations will be generated particularly in the northern regions and the Lower Valais.

From the southern Valais over the northern Ticino as far as Grisons, there are weak layers deeply embedded inside the old snowpack. Avalanches can be triggered from these deep layers particularly in seldom-frequented terrain on west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes. In isolated cases, avalanches can also grow to large size.

Observed weather on Friday, 18.02.2022

During the night the precipitation came to an end in the northern regions and skies cleared up. During the daytime in the western and northern regions skies were predominantly overcast, in Grisons intermittently sunny, and in the southern regions mostly sunny.

Fresh snow

In the northern regions there was a small amount of fresh snow registered above approximately 2000 m during the night

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +7 °C in the western regions and +4 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind

- Valais, northern flank of the Alps and Grisons: at high altitudes strong-velocity winds were blowing from southwesterly directions;
- Ticino: winds were blowing predominantly at light to moderate strength, from northerly directions then shifting to southerly.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 19.02.2022

During the nighttime hours in the northern regions, snowfall is expected to set in. The snowfall level will descend from 1600 to 1800 m down to low lying areas during the course of the night. During the daytime it will become increasingly sunny from the west. In the southern regions it will be quite sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above approximately 1500 m:

- northern flank of the Alps, furthestmost western part of Lower Valais: 10 to 25 cm; on the French border as much as 40 cm;
- remaining parts of Valais, northern Grisons: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres;
- in the furthestmost southern regions it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in the northern regions and -2 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds in the northern regions will be blowing from southwesterly directions, then shift to westerly, still blowing at strong velocity during the nocturnal hours, during the daytime at moderate strength;
- in the southern and southeastern regions, winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly directions; in the afternoon in Ticino: moderate-strength northerly foehn winds.

Outlook through Monday, 21.02.2022

In the northern regions skies will be heavily overcast on both days. Above approximately 1000 m there will be intermittent snowfall on Sunday, then on Sunday night and during the day on Monday the snowfall will become persistent and heavy. By Monday evening on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Lower Valais, approximately 40 cm of fresh snow will have fallen. Winds will be blowing at strong velocity from westerly to northwesterly directions. The avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly on Sunday, but on Monday danger levels will increase over widespread areas. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be quite sunny on both days. Avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.