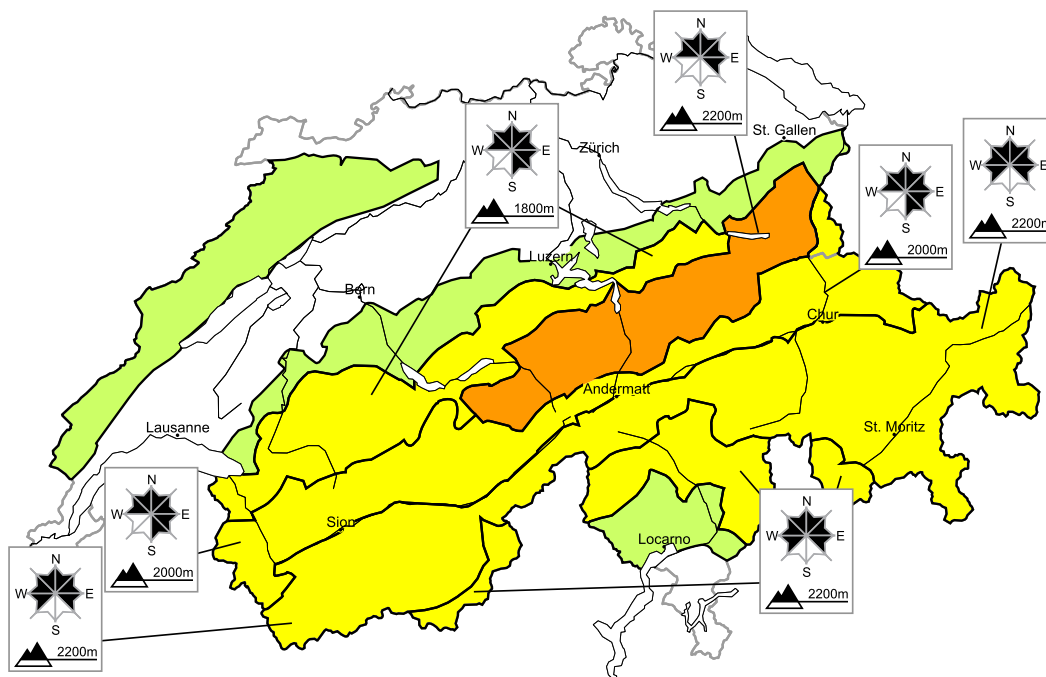


At elevated altitudes a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 20.2.2022, 08:00 / Next update: 20.2.2022, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 20.2.2022, 08:00



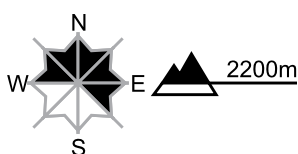
region A

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

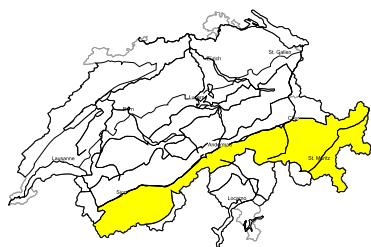
The fresh wind slabs represent the main danger. As a consequence of the northwesterly wind these will increase in size moderately. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

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

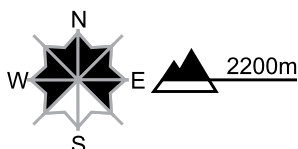
region B

Level 2, moderate



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations

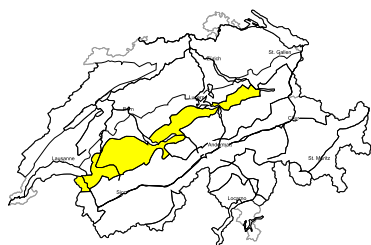


Danger description

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.

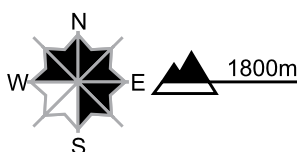
region C

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

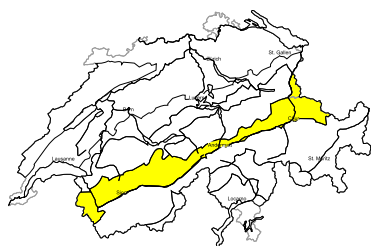
The fresh wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places, including medium-sized ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Gliding avalanches

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

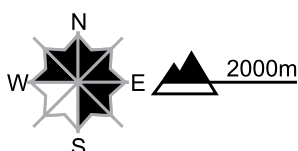
region D

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations




Danger description

The more recent wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. 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. They are very rare. Careful route selection is recommended.

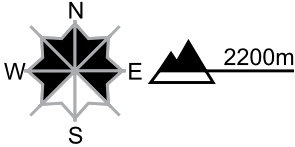
region E

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

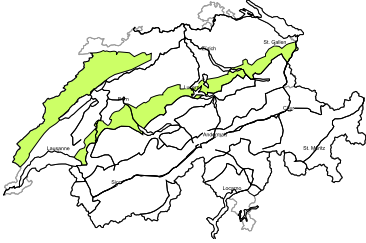


Old snow

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 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 19.2.2022, 17:00

Snowpack

The pronounced drop in temperatures following the last few days of extremely mild temperatures is having a favourable effect on the snowpack. The layers of snow nearest to the surface are becoming firmer, particularly in the western and the northern regions below approximately 2000 to 2400 m. At high altitudes the snowpack manifests striking effects of wind impact.

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

Observed weather on Saturday, 19.02.2022

During the nocturnal hours and in the morning in the western and the northern regions there was a small amount of precipitation registered. The snowfall level descended swiftly down to low lying areas. During the daytime from the Valais over the Ticino as far as southern Grisons it was quite sunny. In the northern regions skies remained predominantly overcast, accompanied by some bright intervals during the afternoon.

Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday midday the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 1500 m:

- central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm;
- Lower Valais, western sector of the northern flank of the Alps: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres; or else, it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in the northern regions and -1 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds were blowing from westerly directions, also at strong velocity during the nighttime hours and in general at high altitudes, during the daytime hours predominantly at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 20.02.2022

During the latter part of the night, cloud cover will rapidly move in from the northwest and a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. The snowfall level is expected to ascend to approximately 1000 m. During the daytime in the northern regions, skies will be predominantly overcast. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be quite sunny.

Fresh snow

By Sunday midday, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected above approximately 1000 m:

- northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland as far as the Alpstein: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres; or else, it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C.

Wind

- Winds at high altitudes will be blowing at strong velocity from northwesterly directions;
- winds in the Prealps will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from southwesterly directions.

Outlook through Tuesday, 22.02.2022

In the northern regions skies will be heavily overcast on both days. Snowfall is expected down to low lying areas, the snowfall will be persistent and intensive between Monday morning and Tuesday morning. By Tuesday evening in the Lower Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, approximately 40 to 60 cm of fresh snow is possible, from the Bernese Oberland into the Glarus Alps as much as 80 cm of fresh fallen snow. The winds will be blowing at strong velocity from westerly to northwesterly directions. The avalanche danger levels will increase over widespread areas, on Tuesday in the northern regions even Danger Level 4 could be reached in certain regions. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be sunny on both days. The avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.