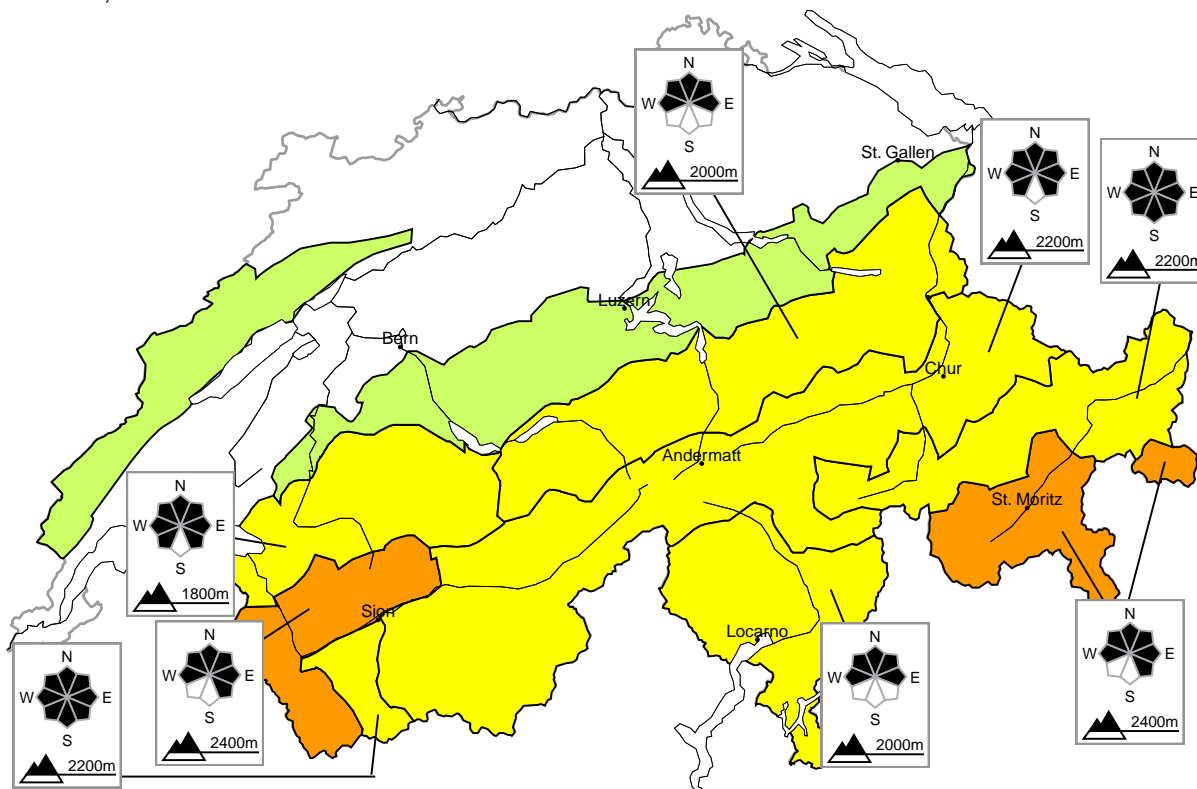


Distinct weak layers in the old snowpack necessitate caution

Edition: 18.12.2022, 08:00 / Next update: 18.12.2022, 17:00

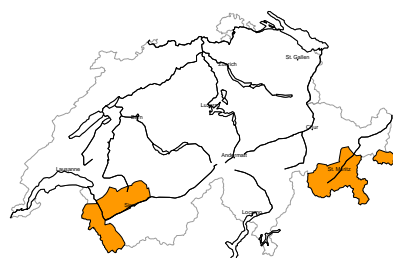
Avalanche danger

updated on 18.12.2022, 08:00



region A

Considerable, Level 3-



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow, even by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach dangerously large size. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

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

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 considerable



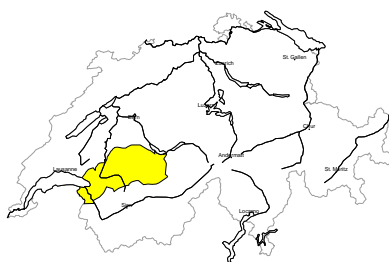
4 high



5 very high

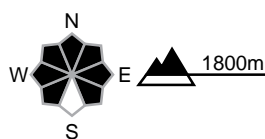
region B

Moderate, Level 2+



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on very steep shady slopes above approximately 2000 m and in gullies and bowls. They are rather rare but are difficult to recognise. Isolated whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger.

In addition mostly small wind slabs will form in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas and at elevated altitudes as the day progresses.

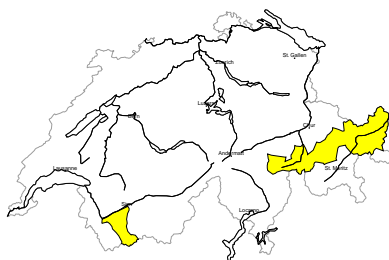
Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

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

region C

Moderate, Level 2+



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In some places avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow and reach a dangerous size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

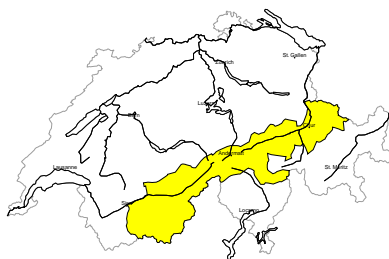
Defensive route selection is recommended.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

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

region D

Moderate, Level 2=



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In some places avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on very steep shady slopes and in gullies and bowls. Defensive route selection is recommended.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible, but they will be mostly small.

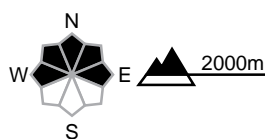
region E

Moderate, Level 2-



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found especially in gullies and bowls. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size.

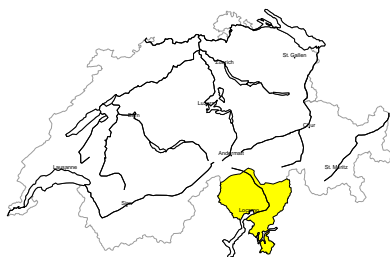
In addition mostly small wind slabs will form in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas and at elevated altitudes as the day progresses. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible, but they will be mostly small.

region F

Moderate, Level 2-



Dry avalanches: no distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released by people and reach medium size. Such avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on very steep shady slopes.

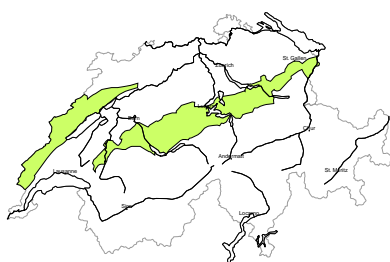
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected, but they will be mostly small.

region G

Low, Level 1



Dry avalanches: no distinct avalanche problem

Only a little snow is lying.

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are to be expected, but they will be mostly small.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.12.2022, 17:00

Snowpack

Fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrifts from the last few days were deposited on top of a weak old snowpack surface above approximately 2000 m and are easily triggered in some places. The basis of the snow cover is expansively metamorphosed (faceted) and loose over widespread areas. Avalanches can fracture down to deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack.

Below approximately 2000 m the snowpack on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Jura region shows pronounced effects of the higher temperatures.

Observed weather review Saturday, 17.12.2022

During Friday night in the eastern regions in particular, there was an additional small amount of snowfall down to low lying areas. In the remaining regions of Switzerland skies were intermittently clear. During the daytime hours on Saturday it was sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow

In Grisons as much as 10 cm, in the other regions less, or else it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -3 °C in the western regions, -8 °C in the eastern regions and -1 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds on the Main Alpine Ridge were blowing at moderate strength from northwesterly directions;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, mostly light winds.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 18.12.2022

Following a night of clear skies it is expected to be predominantly sunny during the daytime. In the afternoon, heavy high-altitude clouds will move in from the northwest.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +4 °C in the northern regions and +1 °C in the southern regions

Wind

Winds will be lighter during the nocturnal hours, during the daytime hours blowing at moderate strength at elevated altitudes, in the Jura region often stronger, from southwesterly directions.

Outlook through Tuesday, 20.12.2022

On Monday and on Tuesday it will be predominantly sunny in spite of high-altitude cloudbanks passing through. It will be extraordinarily mild. The zero-degree level will lie between 3200 and 3600 m. At high altitudes a moderate-strength, in the Jura region frequently a strong velocity southwesterly wind will be blowing.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches will decrease only incrementally due to the persistent weak layer problem which extends over far-reaching areas. During the course of the day as a result of the higher temperatures and solar radiation, gliding avalanches and moist-snow avalanches can be expected.