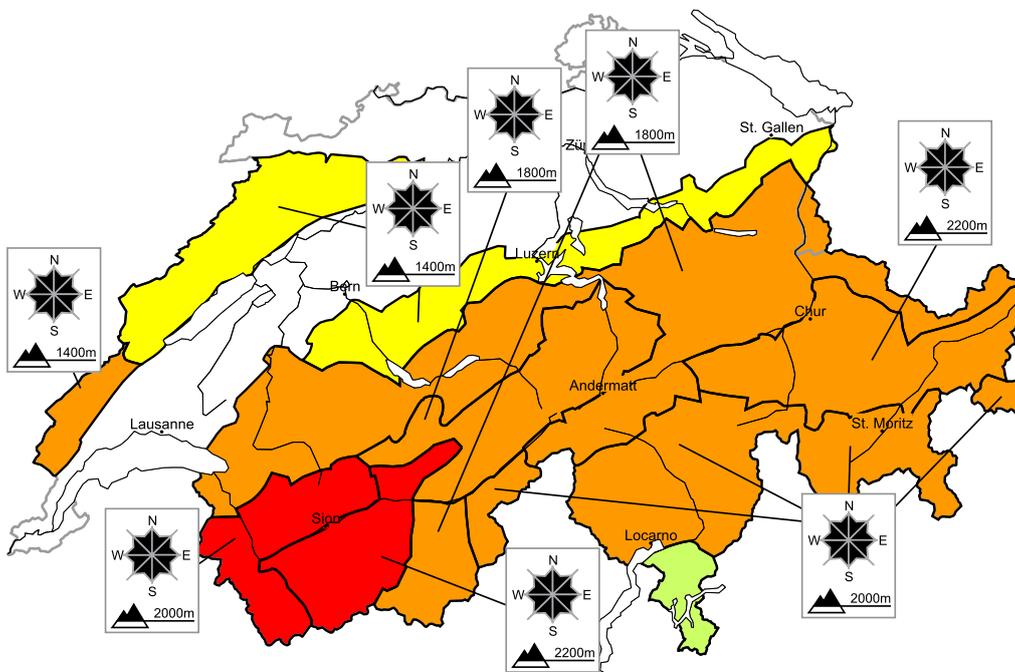


In the west a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 23.12.2019, 08:00 / Next update: 23.12.2019, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 23.12.2019, 08:00

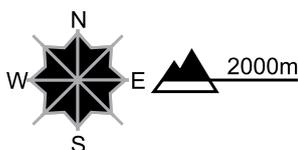


region A Level 4, high



New snow

Avalanche prone locations

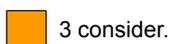
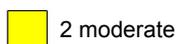


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind the already large wind slabs will increase in size additionally.

The conditions are dangerous for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes. Large and, in isolated cases, very large natural avalanches are to be expected. Exposed transportation routes are endangered.

Danger levels

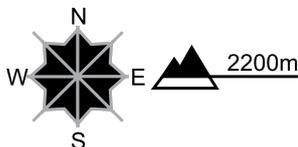


region B Level 4, high



New snow, old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind the already large wind slabs will increase in size additionally.

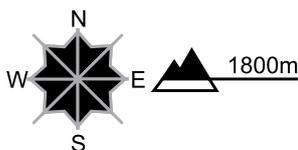
The danger exists in particular in alpine snow sports terrain. The conditions are dangerous for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally. These can release the entire snowpack and reach large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience and great restraint.

region C Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Further increase in avalanche danger as a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind.

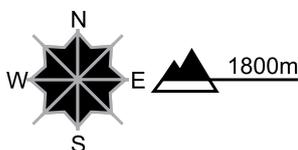
Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. An increasing number of medium-sized to large natural avalanches are possible. In the afternoon possibly danger level 4 (high) will be reached. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

region D Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Further increase in avalanche danger as a consequence of fresh snow and strong wind.

Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. An increasing number of medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large natural avalanches are possible as the day progresses. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

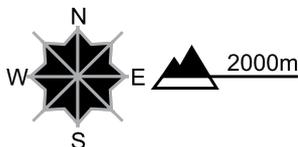
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong northwesterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. These represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

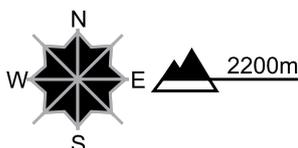
region F

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow by a single winter sport participant. In some places these can release the entire snowpack and reach a dangerous size. As a consequence of fresh snow and a sometimes strong wind, wind slabs will form as well. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in steep terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

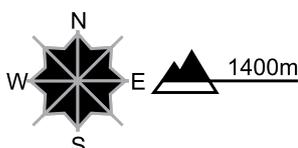
region G

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations

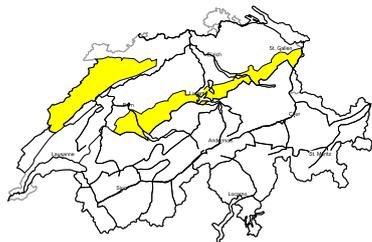


Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong to storm force wind, sometimes large wind slabs will form. These are to be avoided in steep terrain. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

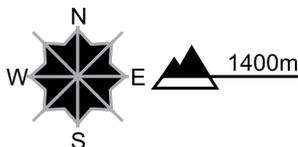
region H

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Mostly avalanches are small but can be released by a single winter sport participant.

Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

region I

Level 1, low



No distinct avalanche problem

Only a little snow is lying.

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 22.12.2019, 17:00

Snowpack

As a result of snowfall and strong to storm-strength winds, snowdrift accumulations will be generated. These drifted masses will be deep and prone to triggering, particularly on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Lower Valais. In addition, there are expansively metamorphosed (faceted), loosely-packed layers of snow evident more deeply embedded inside the snowpack. This is particularly the case in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and of Grisons. There, more than anywhere else, avalanches can fracture down to the deeper layers of the snowpack and subsequently sweep away the entire snow cover.

In the southern regions, the still loosely-packed layers of fresh fallen snow from the last few days are being transported by the strong-velocity northerly winds, and are thereby generating snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering.

Observed weather on Sunday, 22.12.2019

During the nocturnal hours, there was snowfall registered in the western regions more than anywhere else. During the course of the day, the precipitation spread further towards the eastern regions. The snowfall level lay between 1200 and 1500 m. In the southern regions it remained dry for the most part and there were isolated bright intervals.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of new fallen snow were registered above approximately 1400 m:

- Lower Valais: 30 to 50 cm; as much as 60 cm from place to place;
- western and central sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, Upper Valais, western part of the Jura region: 15 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 5 to 15 cm over widespread areas; it remained dry only in the furthestmost southern regions.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the northern regions and 0 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- In the northern and the western regions, winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity, during the afternoon blowing increasingly at storm strength, from westerly directions;
- in the southern and eastern regions, blowing at moderate strength from northerly directions.

Weather forecast through Monday, 23.12.2019

In the northern and the western regions, heavy and persistent snowfall is anticipated above 1000 m. Only in the furthestmost southern regions will it remain dry and be quite sunny during the daytime.

Fresh snow

Between Sunday afternoon and Monday afternoon, the following amounts of snow are anticipated above approximately 1400 m:

- Lower Valais, northern Alpine Ridge: 30 to 50 cm; as much as 60 cm from place to place;
- western part of Jura region, Silvretta, Samnaun: 20 to 40 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, eastern part of Jura region, remaining parts of northern Grisons, central Grisons, remaining parts of Lower Engadine, Bedretto valley: 15 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less; only in the furthestmost southern regions will it remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, - 5 °C.

Wind

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

Outlook through Wednesday, 25.12.2019

Tuesday

In the southern regions it will be quite sunny. In the other regions of Switzerland the snowfall will continue. The amounts of precipitation to be expected are still uncertain. The snowfall level is expected to ascend significantly during the course of the day, in the western regions presumably up to approximately 2000 m. Winds will be blowing continually at strong to storm strength from westerly directions.

Avalanche danger levels in the northern and the western regions will remain critical to begin with. As a result of the ascending snowfall level in these regions, naturally triggering avalanches can be expected continually. In the southern regions, avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Wednesday

On Tuesday night, the snowfall will come to an end. During the daytime on Wednesday, it will be quite sunny in the western and the southern regions, in the eastern regions skies will initially still be overcast.

In the northern regions, conditions for backcountry winter sports in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs will remain critical. In the southern regions the avalanche danger levels will incrementally decrease.