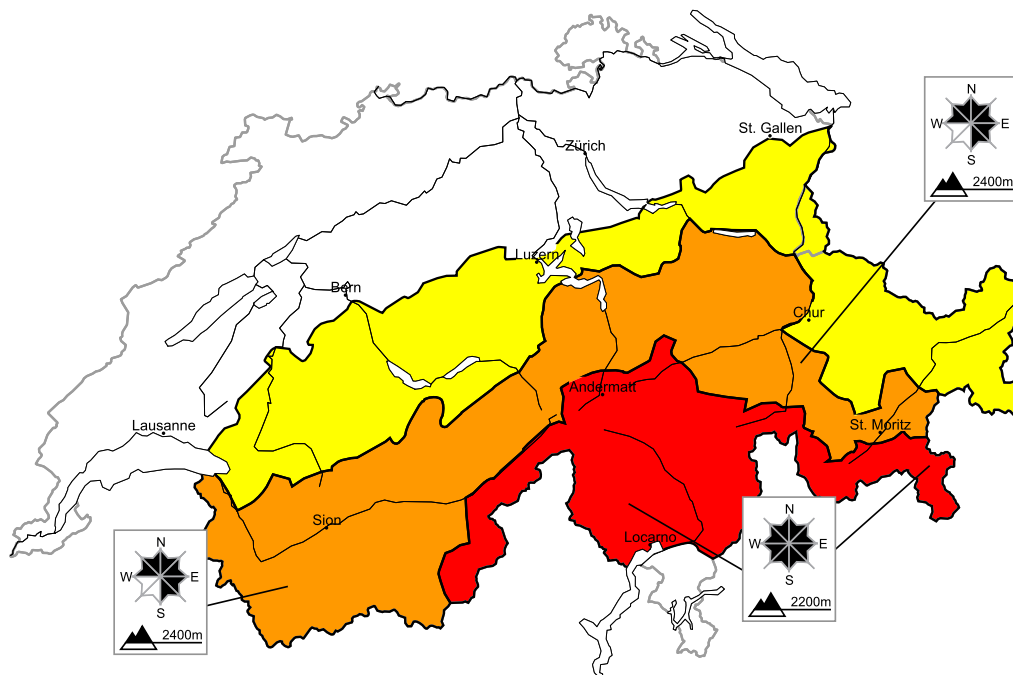


# At elevated altitudes a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 25.4.2019, 17:00 / Next update: 26.4.2019, 17:00

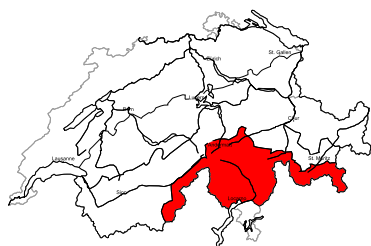
## Avalanche danger

updated on 25.4.2019, 17:00



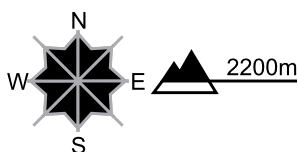
region A

Level 4, high



### Fresh snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As a consequence of fresh snow and a strong southerly wind, large wind slabs will form. The fresh snow and wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering. Natural avalanches are to be expected. These can release the saturated snowpack and reach very large size. Transportation routes situated at higher altitudes in particular are endangered. The conditions are very critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities.

### Wet avalanches

In all aspects medium-sized and large moist and wet avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

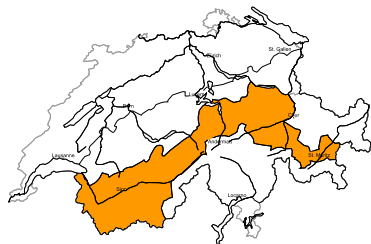
5 very high



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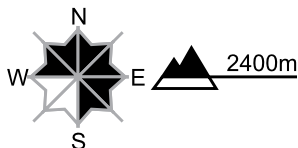
**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

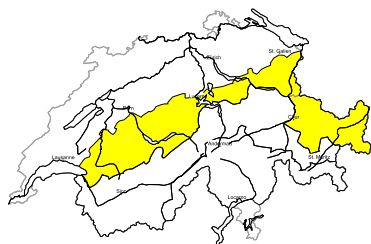
Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. These can in some places be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in steep terrain. In the regions neighbouring those that are subject to danger level 4 (high) the wind slabs are larger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

**Wet avalanches**

In all aspects medium-sized and large wet and gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m.

**region C**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wet avalanches**

At any time wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies in all aspects below approximately 2400 m.

**Wind slabs**

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. These are in some cases prone to triggering. 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 25.4.2019, 17:00

### Snowpack

The enormous masses of fresh snow on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom have been deposited on steep, wind-protected north-facing slopes above approximately 2600 m atop a partially loosely-bonded old snowpack surface which could prove to be a weak layer. In the other regions of Switzerland, the old snowpack surface is hardened or irregular and erratically encrusted.

In the foehn-exposed regions of the north, small amounts of snow have been transported during the last few days above approximately 2600 m; these deposited masses are prone to triggering in some places.

North-facing slopes up to approximately 2400 m, in the other aspects up to high alpine regions, are thoroughly wet. Particularly critical are the high altitudes and expositions which have been moistened for the very first time this season, that is, currently north-facing slopes between 2200 and 2600 m more than anywhere else. In those regions, numerous large-sized avalanches have been registered during the last few days, primarily north of the Main Alpine Ridge where intensive rainfall fell intermittently up to the critical altitude band.

### Observed weather on Thursday, 25.04.2019

During the early part of the night there was precipitation, primarily in the Upper Valais sector of the Main Alpine Ridge, in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps and the immediately bordering regions to the north; in the other regions of Switzerland, nocturnal skies were bright. During the daytime, skies were heavily overcast in the Valais sector of the Main Alpine Ridge and in western Ticino; in the remaining regions of Switzerland, skies were variably cloudy, yet also rather sunny.

#### Fresh snow

The snowfall level lay between 1900 and 2300 m. Between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 2500 m:

- Simplon region, southern Goms, Urseren, western Ticino: 30 to 60 cm;
- in the regions bordering directly to the north, in eastern Ticino and on the Main Alpine Ridge from central Grisons into the Upper Engadine: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the remaining regions, significantly less or else it will remain dry

Thus, since the beginning of this period of precipitation on Monday night until Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of precipitation have been registered above approximately 2500 m:

- upper Valais sector of the Main Alpine Ridge from the Monte Rosa region into southern Goms and in western Ticino: 80 to 120 cm.
- regions bordering directly to the north, as well as in eastern Ticino and on the Main Alpine Ridge from central Grisons into the Upper Engadine: 40 to 80 cm;
- further to the north, the amounts of precipitation decreased significantly and rapidly.

#### Temperature

As of midday at 2000 m, between +8 °C in the northern regions and +2 °C in the southern regions.

#### Wind

Winds were southerly,

- blowing at strong to storm strength at high altitudes;
- in the Alpine valleys of the north, a strong to storm-strength foehn was blowing.

**Weather forecast** through Friday, 26.04.2019

On Thursday night in northeastern regions, the final bright intervals will be evident. In the other regions of Switzerland, skies will be heavily overcast. In the southern regions, frequent and heavy precipitation is expected. In the northern regions, precipitation will be intermittent.

**Fresh snow**

The snowfall level will lie at 2200 to 2600 m to begin with, subsequently descend during the course of the day to 1200 to 1600 m. The following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:

- central sector of the southern flank of the Alps and southern Tavetsch and Rheinwald region: 60 to 100 cm;
- Main Alpine Ridge in the Upper Valais, Urner Alps, remaining parts of the Main Alpine Ridge from central Grisons into the Upper Engadine: 40 to 60 cm;
- Main Alpine Ridge in the Lower Valais, Aletsch region, Hasli valleys, eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps, Flims, Obersaxen-Safiental, Val Poschiavo and Val Müstair: 20 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less than 20 cm.

**Temperature**

- in the northern regions, temperatures will drop significantly on Thursday night;
- at midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in northern regions and +2 °C in southern regions.

**Wind**

- On Thursday night in the mountains, still strong-to-stormy southerly winds will prevail, in the Alpine valleys of the north the foehn wind will slacken off.
- During the daytime on Friday, the foehn wind will come to an end, a westerly wind at moderate velocity will set in.

**Outlook** through Sunday, 28.04.2019

On both days in southern regions, it will be sunny; in eastern regions skies will be variably cloudy, accompanied by showers. In western regions skies will be heavily overcast accompanied by precipitation. On Sunday, the snowfall level will descend to nearly 1300 m. Winds will be blowing intermittently at strong velocity from westerly to northwesterly directions. The danger of dry-snow avalanches will decrease in the southern regions. In the northern regions the danger will rise somewhat on Sunday. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will decrease. Isolated gliding avalanches remain possible.