In the west and in the north a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area, especially at elevated altitudes

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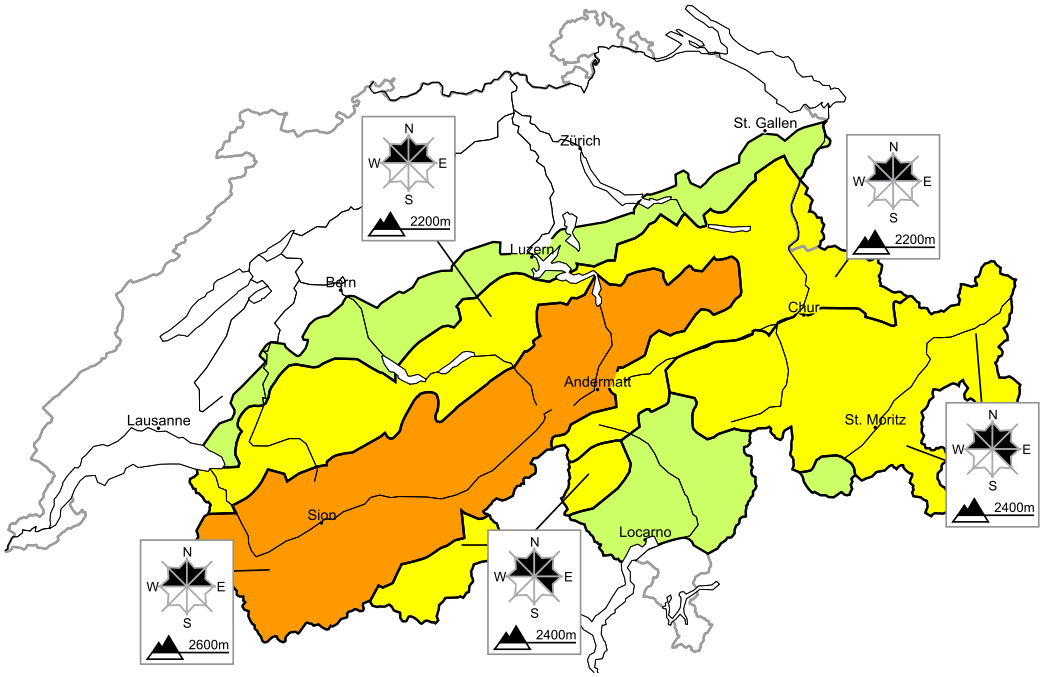
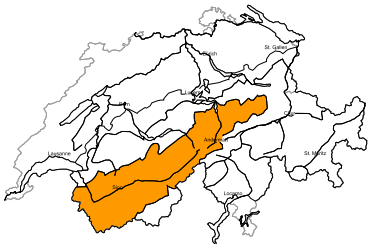
Avalanche danger

updated on 11.4.2022, 17:00

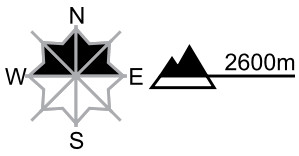


region A — Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Dry avalanches can in some cases be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. The avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep north facing slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, gliding avalanches

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small to medium-sized wet avalanches are to be expected. This applies in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2600 m.
Individual occasionally large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2600 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

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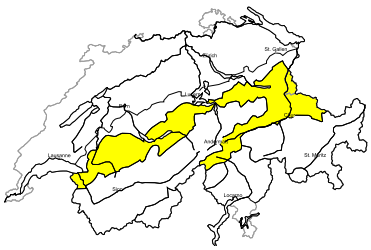
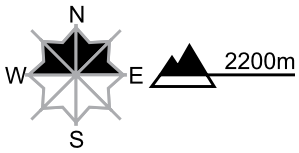
region B — Level 2, moderate



Dry avalanches: no distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



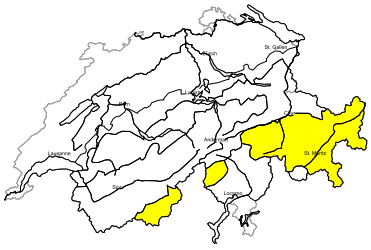
Danger description

The rather small wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. They are covered with new snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can reach medium size. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, gliding avalanches

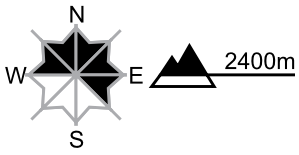
As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small to medium-sized wet avalanches are to be expected. This applies in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2600 m.
Individual occasionally large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2600 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region C — Level 2, moderate



Dry avalanches: no distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



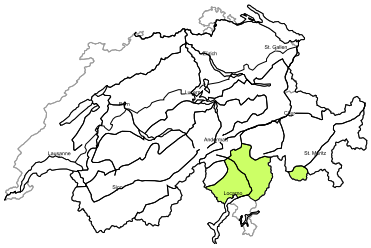
Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs are rather small and can only be released in isolated cases. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. They are sometimes covered with new snow and are therefore difficult to recognise. Additionally in very isolated cases dry avalanches can also be released in deep layers. These avalanche prone locations are very rare but are barely recognisable. Careful route selection is recommended.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small to medium-sized wet avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2600 m.

region D — Level 1, low



Wind slabs

Only a little snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular on very steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. 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.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation moist snow slides are possible.

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region E

Level 1, low

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Dry avalanches are no longer to be expected. As the day progresses gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 11.4.2022, 17:00

Snowpack

In the period from Thursday to Sunday, 40 to 60 cm of snow fell in the north over a wide area and as much as 120 cm fell in the west. In some places this snow has not yet bonded well with the old snowpack underneath. The bonding is expected to improve quickly. More conspicuous is the weak layer above the crust containing the Saharan dust. At the weekend, numerous avalanche releases – many of them triggered by people – were reported in this layer, in particular in Valais and on the northern Alpine ridge. Both the prevalence and the further development of these weak layers is uncertain. There were no reports of fractures occurring in even deeper layers of the snowpack.
The fresh snow quickly became moist all the way through on steep sunny slopes in particular. In view of the predicted Saharan dust, a further injection of heat into the snowpack is to be expected. Moist and wet snow slides are to be expected, initially originating from the fresh snow in particular. The gliding avalanche activity will increase again, in particular on the northern Alpine ridge.

Observed weather on Monday, 11.04.2022

With quite clear skies on Sunday night, the outgoing longwave radiation was good. During the day the weather was sunny, but for some high-altitude cloudbanks and scattered convective cloud.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between +5 °C in the north and +1 °C in the south

Wind

Light to moderate from westerly directions

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 12.04.2022

Monday night will be quite clear, but for some high-altitude cloudbanks. During the day the cloud will become more dense and the Saharan dust will impair visibility.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

Increasing significantly, at midday at 2000 m reaching between +10 °C in the north and +4 °C in the south

Wind

- Light to moderate from the southwest
- In the northern Alpine valleys, a slight foehn tendency

Outlook through Thursday, 14.04.2022

The haze caused by Saharan dust will persist. Wednesday will be dry, and on Thursday there will be showers in the north as the day progresses. It will remain mild, and during the night the outgoing longwave radiation will be reduced. In consequence, the snowpack will again become increasingly moist. Aspects and altitude zones in which the snowpack was not already moist before last week's major snowfall, however, are unlikely to become moist all the way through. Wet snow avalanches, in particular originating in the near-surface layers, are to be expected. The danger of dry avalanches will continue to decrease slowly.