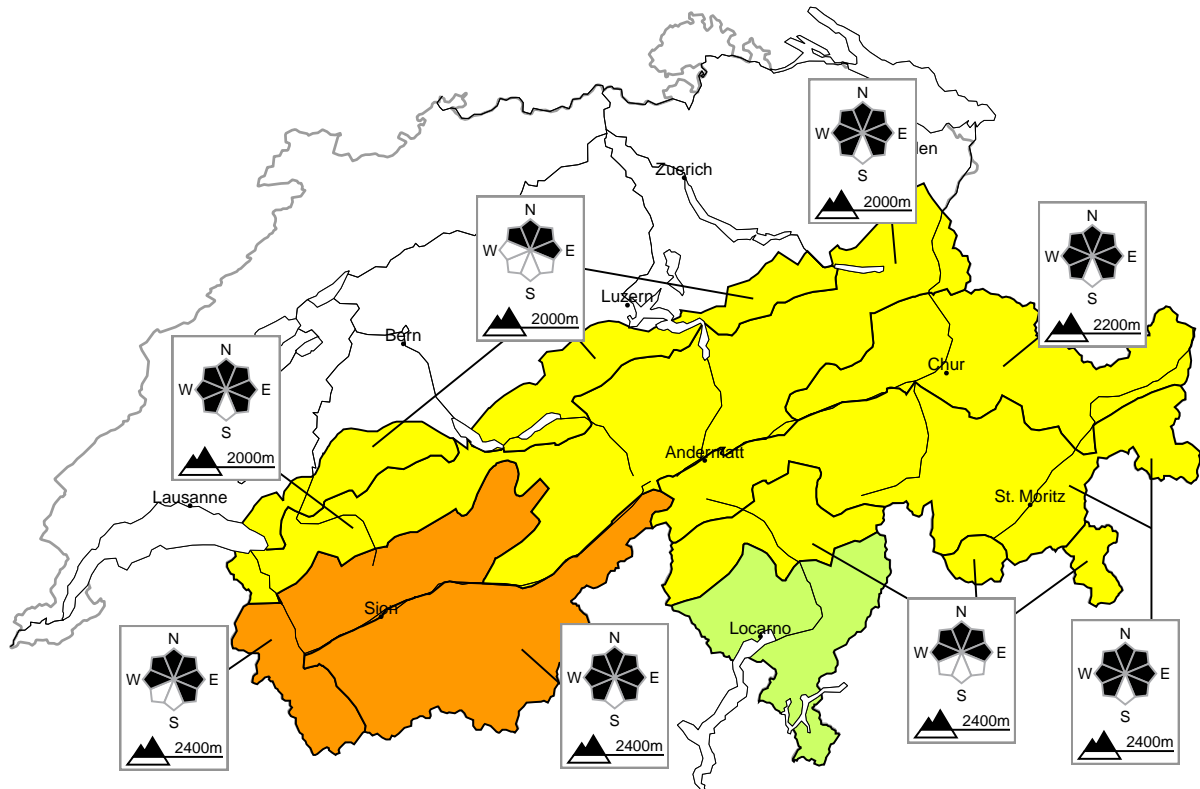


In the west a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions. Wind slabs and weakly bonded old snow require caution

Edition: 1.1.2023, 08:00 / Next update: 1.1.2023, 17:00

Avalanche danger
updated on 1.1.2023, 08:00

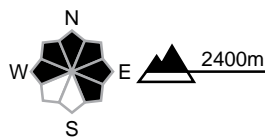


region A **Considerable, Level 3-**



Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

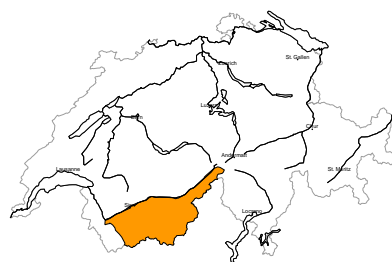
The more recent wind slabs are prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. Single persons can release avalanches. These can in some cases penetrate deep layers and reach large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Small and medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m, as well as on south facing slopes below approximately 2500 m.

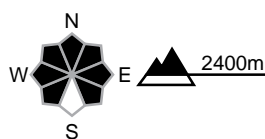
region B

Considerable, Level 3-



Old snow, Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

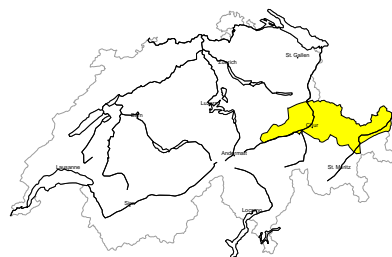
In some places avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. Whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. In addition the more recent wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Small and medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m, as well as on south facing slopes below approximately 2500 m.

region C

Moderate, Level 2+



Old snow, Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

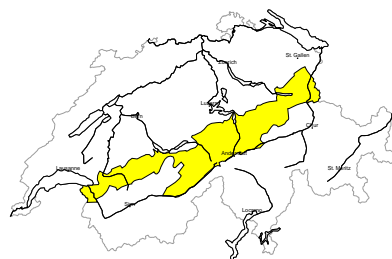


Danger description

In some places avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size. Isolated whumpfung sounds can indicate the danger. In addition the fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases. These are to be found in particular in the regions exposed to the foehn wind and at elevated altitudes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

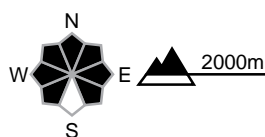
region D

Moderate, Level 2=



Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

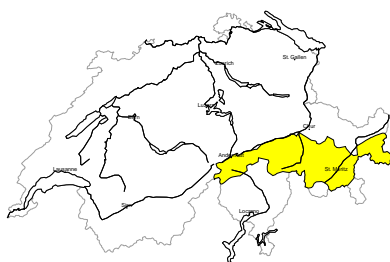
The more recent wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in the regions exposed to the foehn wind and generally at elevated altitudes. Additionally in some places avalanches can be released in near-ground layers and reach medium size. This applies in particular above approximately 2400 m. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Small and medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies in particular on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m, as well as on south facing slopes below approximately 2500 m.

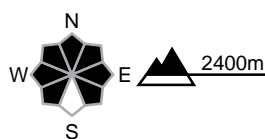
region E

Moderate, Level 2=



Old snow, Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

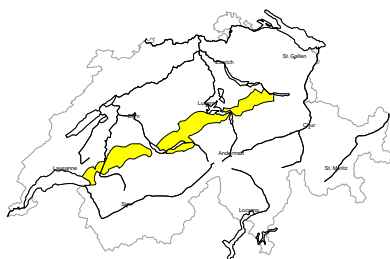
In some places avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size in some cases.

The fresh wind slabs are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Defensive route selection is recommended.

region F

Moderate, Level 2-



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and westerly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed at elevated altitudes. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. Avalanches can in isolated cases reach medium size.

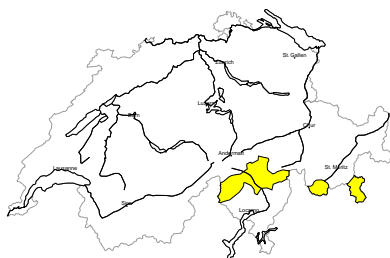
Careful route selection is recommended.

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Mostly small gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible. This applies in all aspects.

region G

Moderate, Level 2-



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



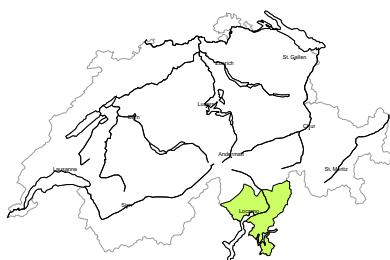
Danger description

Fresh wind slabs are small but in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in deeper layers also. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. 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.

Careful route selection is recommended.

region H

Low, Level 1



No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Even a snow slide can sweep winter sport participants along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 31.12.2022, 17:00

Snowpack

In locations below approximately 2200 m there is extraordinarily little snow on the ground for this juncture of the season. At lower altitudes there is no snow whatsoever on the ground. Even above 2200 m the snow depths are below average over widespread areas. Only in the Valais do the snow depths correspond, at least in some places, to long-term averages. The predominantly shallow snowpack shows pronounced influence from higher temperatures and rainfall below 2200 to 2400 m, and is riddled with melt-freeze crusts, and also with expansively metamorphosed (faceted) crystal layers. At elevated altitudes the more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack are generally faceted and also loosely packed. This is the case on west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes above 2200 to 2400 m and on south-facing slopes above approximately 2700 m.

As a consequence of the intermittently strong-velocity southwesterly winds, snowdrift accumulations have been generated at elevated altitudes over the last few days. These snowdrift accumulations are largest in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in Lower Valais. Yet in spite of the ongoing strong-velocity winds they are not growing any further in spread or size.

As a result of the daytime rise in temperatures and solar radiation, the snowpack is weakened on very steep south-facing slopes during the course of the day. In the western and northern regions more than anywhere else, moist slides and gliding avalanches are possible.

Observed weather review Saturday, 31.12.2022

Following a brief interval in the precipitation, during Friday night in the western regions more than anywhere else there was renewed precipitation registered. The snowfall level ascended to 2300 m by the end of this period of precipitation. During the daytime hours on Saturday in the western and the southern regions, heavy cloud cover moved in; in the eastern regions it was intermittently sunny.

Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Saturday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above approximately 2500 m:

- northern and furthestmost western parts of Lower Valais: 20 to 50 cm;
- western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, southern part of Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, less; or else it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +8 °C in the northern regions and +3 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds were southwesterly:

- in the northern regions and the Valais, blowing frequently at strong velocity;
- in the Ticino and in Grisons, blowing at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 01.01.2023

On the southern flank of the Alps, skies will be overcast. During the daytime a small amount of snowfall is possible above approximately 2000 m. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, nocturnal skies will be predominantly clear. During the daytime hours it will be rather sunny, apart from some high-altitude cloudbanks.

Fresh snow

In the southern regions, a small amount of snowfall is possible above 2000 m.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, +7 °C in the northern regions and 0 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

Winds will be southwesterly:

- in the northern regions blowing at moderate to strong velocity, intermittently attaining storm strength;
- in the southern regions blowing at light to moderate strength, in the high alpine regions intermittently at strong velocity;
- in the foehn-impacted regions of the north, strong southerly foehn winds will prevail.

Outlook through Tuesday, 03.01.2023

On Monday in the northern regions it will be predominantly sunny, skies in the southern regions will be overcast. Above 1600 m in the southern regions a small amount of snowfall is possible. During the course of the day in the northern regions, temperatures will drop: the zero-degree level will gradually descend down to nearly 2500 m. At elevated altitudes the strong-velocity southwesterly winds will persist. On Tuesday in the northern regions, some snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1500 m. During the daytime, skies will brighten incrementally from the west and the south. Winds will slacken off and be blowing only at light to moderate strength.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches will decrease somewhat on Monday and then not change significantly on Tuesday. The danger of wet-snow avalanches will diminish.