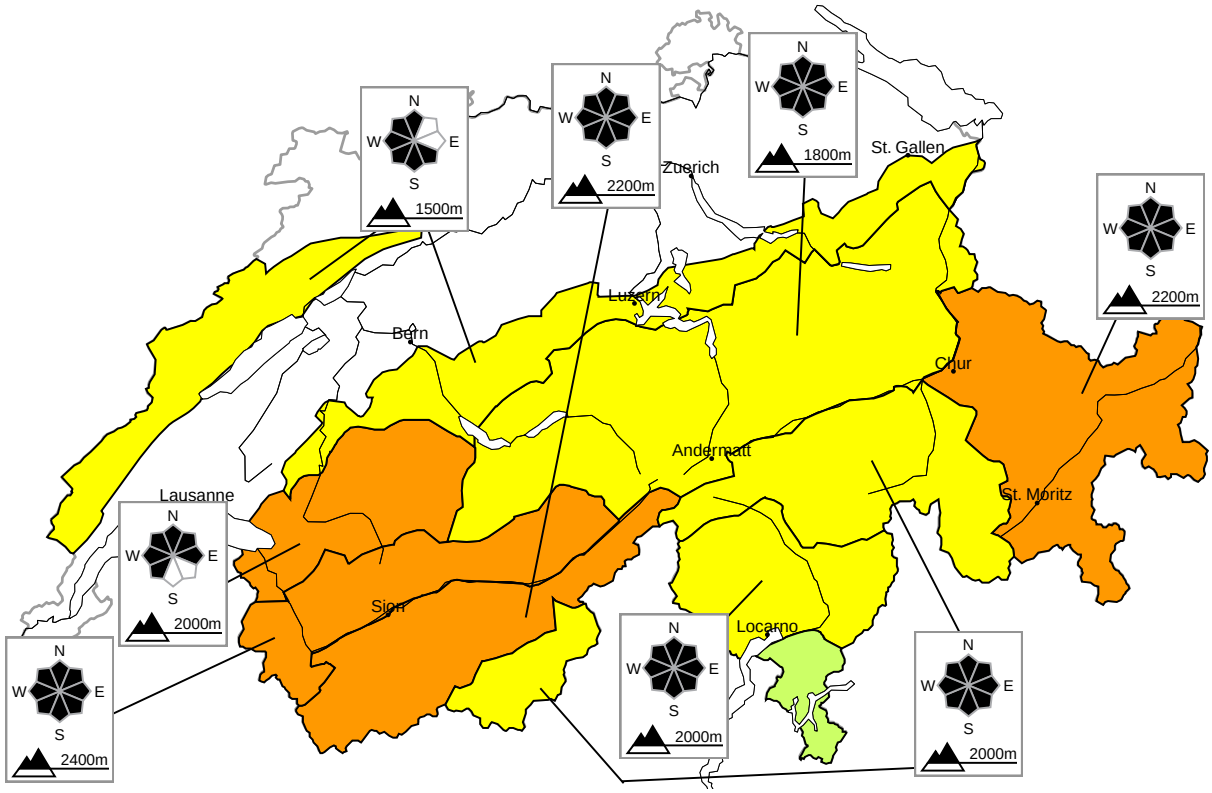
Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 21.1.2023, 08:00 / Next update: 21.1.2023, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 21.1.2023, 08:00

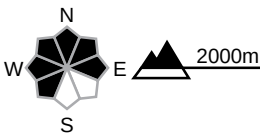


region A

Considerable, Level 3-

Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a gathering strong northeasterly wind, wind slabs will form in the course of the day. In addition the older wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering in some cases still. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 considerable 4 high 5 very high

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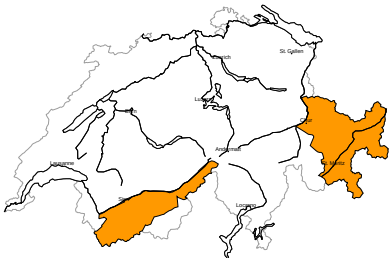
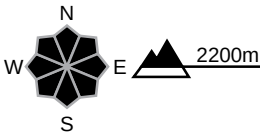
region B — Considerable, Level 3-



Snow drift, Old snow

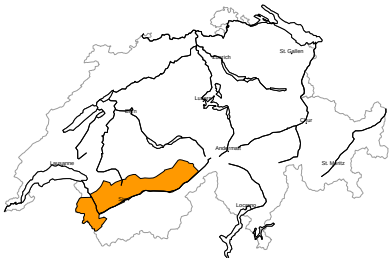
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

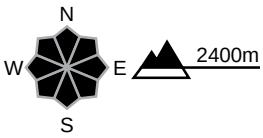
As a consequence of a strengthening northeasterly wind, wind slabs will form in the course of the day at elevated altitudes. The fresh and older wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places.
Avalanches can in some cases release the entire snowpack and reach medium size. This applies in particular on north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m, as well as on south facing slopes above approximately 2800 m.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C — Considerable, Level 3-



Snow drift

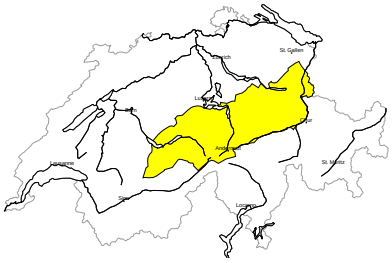
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

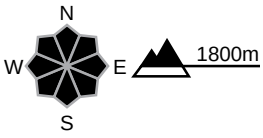
As a consequence of a gathering strong northeasterly wind, wind slabs will form in the course of the day at elevated altitudes. In addition the older wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering in some cases still. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. The prevalence of the avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region D — Moderate, Level 2+



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a gathering strong northeasterly wind, wind slabs will form in the course of the day at elevated altitudes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places, including medium-sized ones. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. In high Alpine regions a considerable avalanche danger will prevail. Careful route selection is important.

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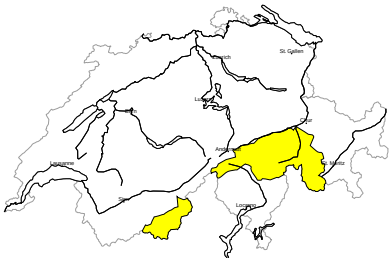
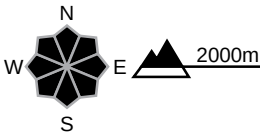
region E

Moderate, Level 2+



Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations

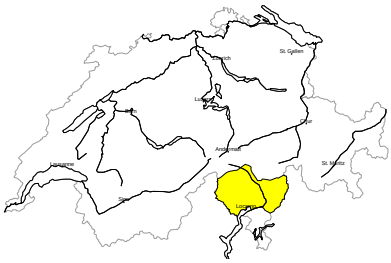


Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate to strong northerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed at elevated altitudes. These are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. The prevalence of these avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

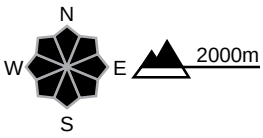
region F

Moderate, Level 2=



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

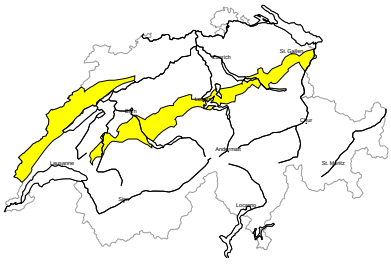


Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate to strong northerly wind, small wind slabs formed at elevated altitudes. The fresh and older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls.
They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

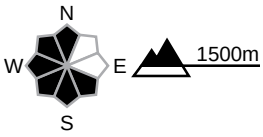
region G

Moderate, Level 2-



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

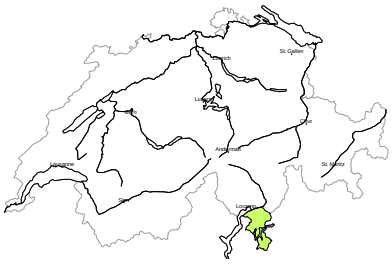


Danger description

As a consequence of northeasterly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form in the course of the day. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at the base of rock walls and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Mostly avalanches are small.
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 H

Low, Level 1



Snow drift

As a consequence of northerly wind, small wind slabs formed in the last few days. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence especially in extremely steep terrain.
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.

Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 considerable 4 high 5 very high

Snowpack and weather

updated on 20.1.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of moderate to strong-velocity northeasterly winds and increasingly strong bise wind, freshly generated snowdrift accumulations will be formed in the Prealps and in general at high altitudes during the course of the day.
The immense amounts of fresh fallen snow and the deep snowdrift accumulations in western regions from this week are settling and stabilising to an increasing degree in spite of the low temperatures.
In more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack there are expansively metamorphosed (faceted) crystals evident which constitute weak layers, particularly on north-facing slopes above 2200 m and on south-facing slopes above approximately 2800 m. These weak layers are prone to triggering in the southern Valais and in Grisons more than anywhere else, as stability tests and avalanche releases this week have confirmed.

Observed weather review Friday, 20.01.2023

In the western and the southern regions skies were quite sunny to start with, subsequently cloud cover moved in over widespread areas during the course of the afternoon. In the eastern regions skies were variably cloudy to heavily overcast and there was a small amount of snowfall.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -13 °C in the northern regions and -10 °C in the southern regions.

Wind
- Winds in the northern regions were blowing at light to moderate strength from northerly directions;
- winds in the southern regions were blowing at moderate strength, at strong velocity during the afternoon, from northerly directions;
- blowing at strong velocity from northerly directions also in other parts of the Main Alpine Ridge during the afternoon hours.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 21.01.2023

In the northern regions skies will be variably cloudy, in the eastern regions a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. In the southern regions and in the Valais, it will be quite sunny. It is expected to remain cold.

Fresh snow
Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above 600 m:
- eastern sector of the northern flank of the Alps and northern Grisons: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres; in the Valais and in the southern regions it remained dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -12 °C in the northern regions and -9 °C in the southern regions.

Wind
Winds are expected to be blowing predominantly at moderate strength to begin with; in the Jura region, in the Prealps as well as in general at elevated altitudes, winds will be blowing at increasingly strong velocity from northeasterly directions.

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Outlook through Monday, 23.01.2023

In the northern regions skies will be heavily overcast on both days for the most part. Intermittently in the eastern regions, a bit of snowfall is anticipated. In the Valais and in the southern regions it will be rather sunny. On the northern flank of the Alps as well as in general at elevated altitudes, a moderate to strong-velocity northeasterly wind will be blowing on Sunday; on Monday, the wind will shift to easterly. The low temperatures are expected to persist.
As a result of winds, snowdrift accumulations are expected to be generated from region to region. Avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.