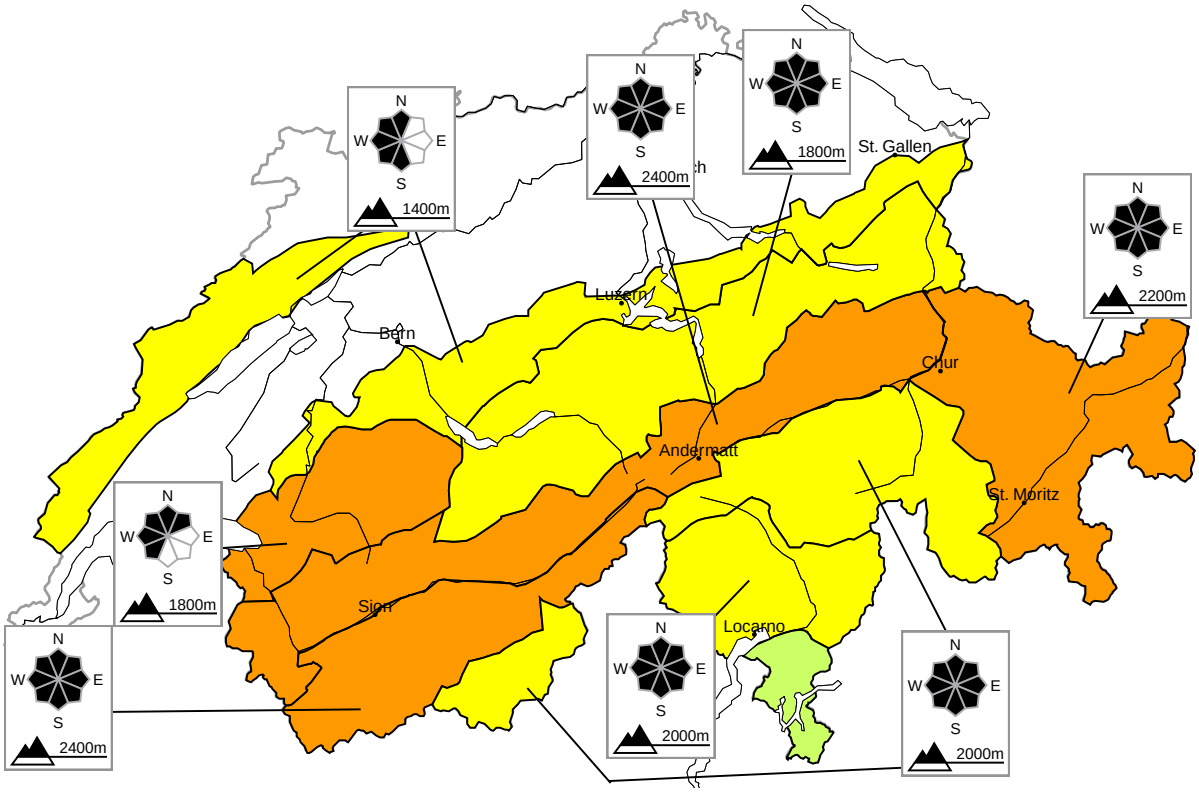
Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 22. January 2023

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

Edition: 22.1.2023, 08:00 / Next update: 22.1.2023, 17:00

Avalanche danger

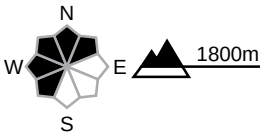
updated on 22.1.2023, 08:00



region A | **Considerable, Level 3-**

Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



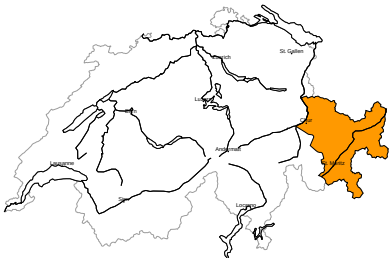
Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate to strong bise wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed on Saturday. 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. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.
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

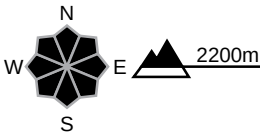
region B

Considerable, Level 3-



Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations

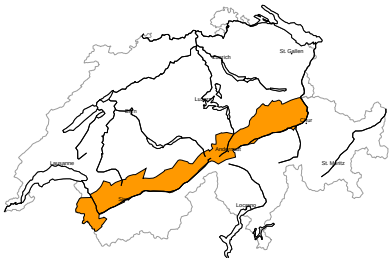


Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong northeasterly wind, wind slabs formed 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.

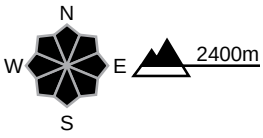
region C

Considerable, Level 3-



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

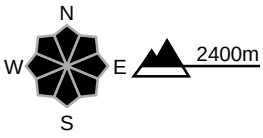
As a consequence of a moderate to strong northeasterly wind, clearly visible wind slabs formed on Saturday at elevated altitudes. In addition the older wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering in some cases still. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized 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

Considerable, Level 3-

Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



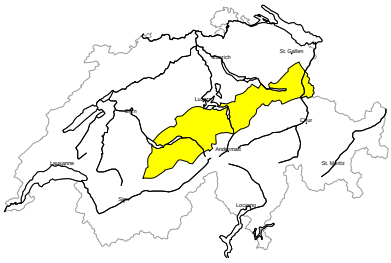
Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate to strong northeasterly wind, clearly visible wind slabs formed on Saturday 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.

Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 22. January 2023

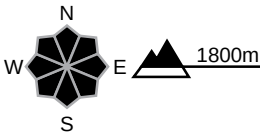
region E

Moderate, Level 2+



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

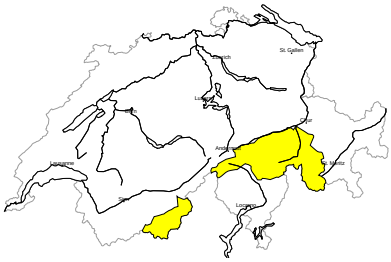


Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate to strong northeasterly wind, wind slabs formed on Saturday 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.

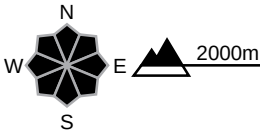
region F

Moderate, Level 2+



Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

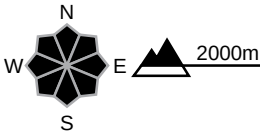
As a consequence of a moderate to strong northerly wind, clearly visible wind slabs formed in some cases. These are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They are to be avoided as far as possible. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. Avalanches can in isolated 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 G

Moderate, Level 2=

Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

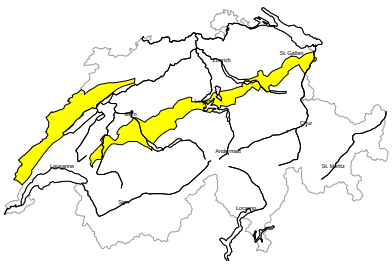


Danger description

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.

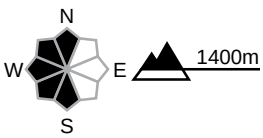
region H

Moderate, Level 2-



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

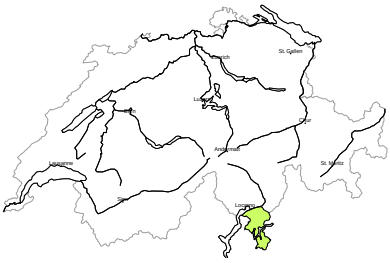
As a consequence of a sometimes strong bise wind, wind slabs formed on Saturday. The avalanche prone locations are to be found especially in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Mostly avalanches are small.
Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

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

Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 22. January 2023

region I

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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.1.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of moderate to strong-velocity northeasterly winds and increasingly strong bise wind, snowdrift accumulations were generated in the Prealps as well as in general at elevated altitudes on Saturday. The freshly generated snowdrifts, which now blanket somewhat older snowdrift layers which were generated last week, are still triggerable only in extremely isolated cases.
In more deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover, expansively metamorphosed (faceted) layers of snow are evident, particularly on north-facing slopes above 2200 m and on south-facing sloeps above approximately 2800 m. These weakened layers are prone to triggering in some places, particularly in the southern Valais and in Grisons.

Observed weather review Saturday, 21.01.2023

In the northern and the eastern regions, skies were predominantly overcast. There was a small amount of intermittent snowfall registered. The snowfall level lay at low lying areas. In the Valais and in the southern regions it was quite sunny.

Fresh snow
Between Friday afternoon and Saturday midday, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered:
- Alpstein, Liechtenstein, Prättigau: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland it was predominantly dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -13 °C in the northern regions and -9 °C in the southern regions.

Wind
Winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northeasterly directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 22.01.2023

In the Valais and in the southern regions it is expected to be quite sunny. Apart from bright intervals in the inneralpine regions of Grisons; skies will be heavily overcast in the other regions of Switzerland. Intermittently in the northern and the eastern regions, a small amount of snowfall is possible. The snowfall level will lie at low lying areas.

Fresh snow
Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:
- Alpstein, Liechtenstein: 5 cm; in the other regions of Switzerland, less;
- in the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps it is expected to remain dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -12 °C in the northern regions and -7 °C in the southern regions.

Wind
- Winds during the nocturnal hours will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northeasterly directions;
- during the daytime hours, winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength, ongoingly at strong velocity in the Jura region, from easterly directions.

Outlook through Tuesday, 24.01.2023

On both days it is expected to be quite sunny above the high fogbanks (ceiling will be at approximately 2000 m). In the Lower Engadine and in Val Müstair, intermittent snowfall is possible.
Avalanche danger levels are expected to incrementally decrease.