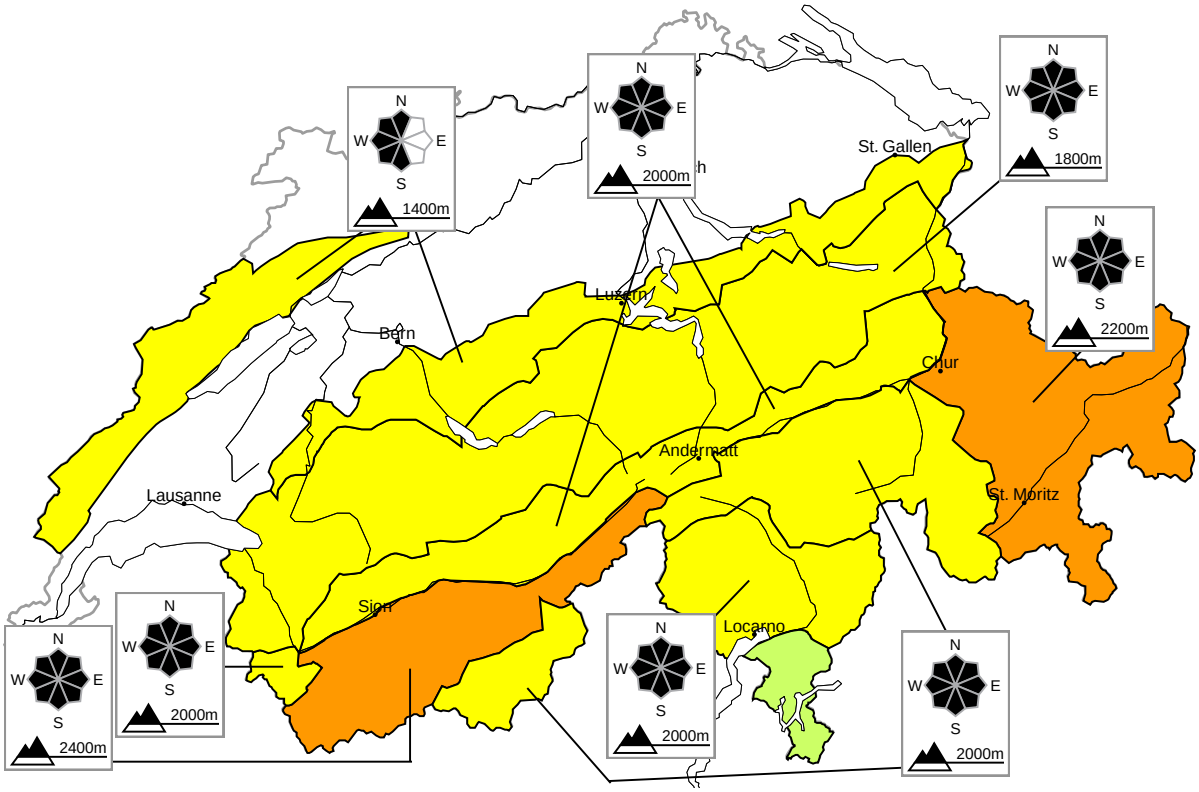
At elevated altitudes a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 23.1.2023, 08:00 / Next update: 23.1.2023, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 23.1.2023, 08:00

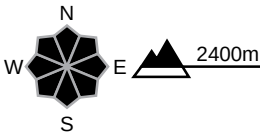


region A

Considerable, Level 3-

Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant. As a consequence of a gathering strong easterly wind, further wind slabs will form in the course of the day at elevated altitudes. Additionally in some places avalanches can also be triggered in the old 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.

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

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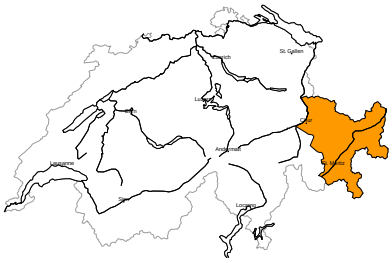
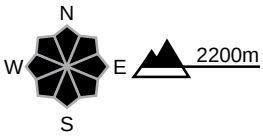
region B — Considerable, Level 3-



Snow drift, Old snow

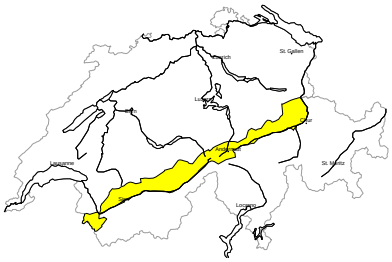
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

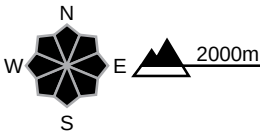
The sometimes new snow-covered wind slabs of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant. As a consequence of a gathering strong easterly wind, further wind slabs will form in the course of the day at elevated altitudes. Additionally in some places avalanches can also be triggered in the old 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 — Moderate, Level 2+



Snow drift

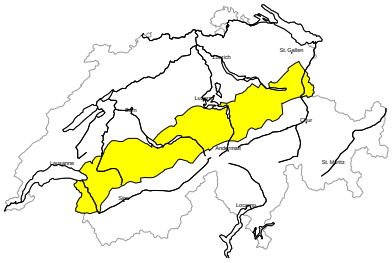
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

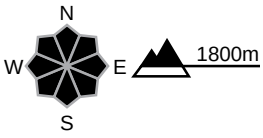
The wind slabs of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. Avalanches can reach medium size.
As a consequence of a gathering strong easterly wind, further wind slabs will form in the course of the day in high Alpine regions. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. In high Alpine regions a considerable avalanche danger will prevail.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region D — Moderate, Level 2+



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. Avalanches can reach medium size.
As a consequence of a gathering strong easterly wind, further wind slabs will form in the course of the day in high Alpine regions. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. In high Alpine regions a considerable avalanche danger will prevail.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

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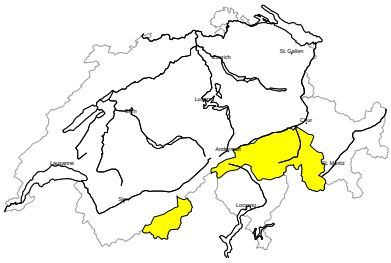
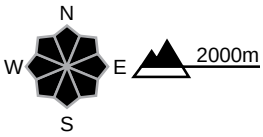
region E

Moderate, Level 2+



Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations

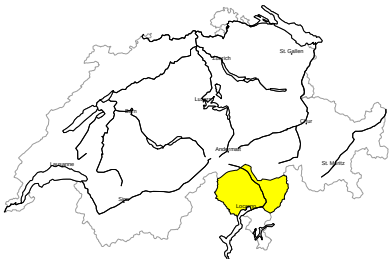


Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate to strong northerly wind, clearly visible wind slabs formed in the last three days. 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.

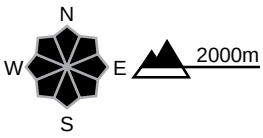
region F

Moderate, Level 2=



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

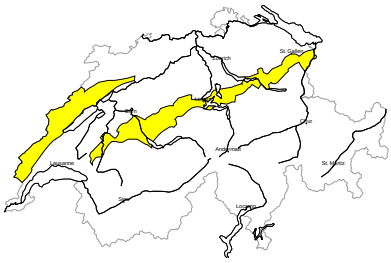


Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate to strong northerly wind, small wind slabs formed in the last three days. These are in some cases still prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

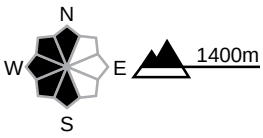
region G

Moderate, Level 2-



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

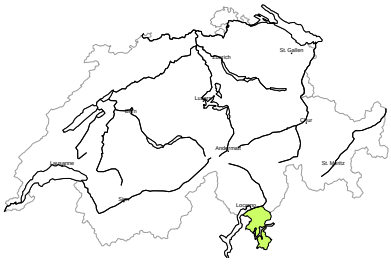


Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence. 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.

region H

Low, Level 1



Snow drift

The somewhat older wind slabs are small but can be released in isolated cases. 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 22.1.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

As a consequence of moderate to strong-velocity northeasterly winds and a strong-velocity bise wind, snowdrift accumulations were generated in the Prealps as well as in general at high altitudes on Saturday. These snowdrift masses are still triggerable in some places. In addition, as a consequence of increasingly strong easterly winds at elevated altitudes, small but easily triggered snowdrift accumulations will be generated.
In more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack, expansively metamorphosed (faceted) crystal layers are evident on north-facing slopes above approximately 2200 m as well as on south-facing slopes above approximately 2800 m. These weak layers are still prone to triggering in some places in the southern Valais and in the Grisons more than anywhere else.

Observed weather review Sunday, 22.01.2023

Nocturnal skies in the western and in the southern regions were predominantly clear, in the other regions of Switzerland skies were overcast. During the daytime hours, skies on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Jura region were overcast with high-fogbanks. In the other regions of Switzerland it was quite sunny above 2000 m.

Fresh snow
- On the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons: a few centimetres of fresh snow was registered from the high fogbanks, from place to place up to 20 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, it remained 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 nighttime hours were blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northeasterly directions, during the daytime hours predominantly at light strength from easterly directions.

Weather forecast through Monday, 23.01.2023

Nocturnal skies in the mountains on Sunday night will be clear above the high fogbanks. During the daytime hours on Monday in the northern and the southern regions, skies will be overcast with high fogbanks. In the inneralpine regions and well as in general above 2000 m, it will be quite sunny. In Val Müstair, in the Lower Engadine as well as in the southern valleys of Visp, a small amount of snowfall is possible.

Fresh snow
Between Monday morning and Monday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated:
- Val Müstair, Lower Engadine, southern valleys of Visp: 5 cm; in Val Müstair as much as 10 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland it will remain predominantly dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -5 °C.

Wind
Winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength from easterly directions, intermittently at strong velocity at high altitudes during the course of the day.

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Outlook through Wednesday, 25.01.2023

On both days, high fogbanks (with a ceiling at approximately 1500 to 1800 m) will prevail on the northern flank of the Alps. Above that altitude it will be quite sunny. In the southern regions it will initially be overcast on Tuesday, elsewhere it will be quite sunny. In the Lower Engadine, a small amount of snowfall is possible on Tuesday.
Avalanche danger levels are expected to incrementally decrease.