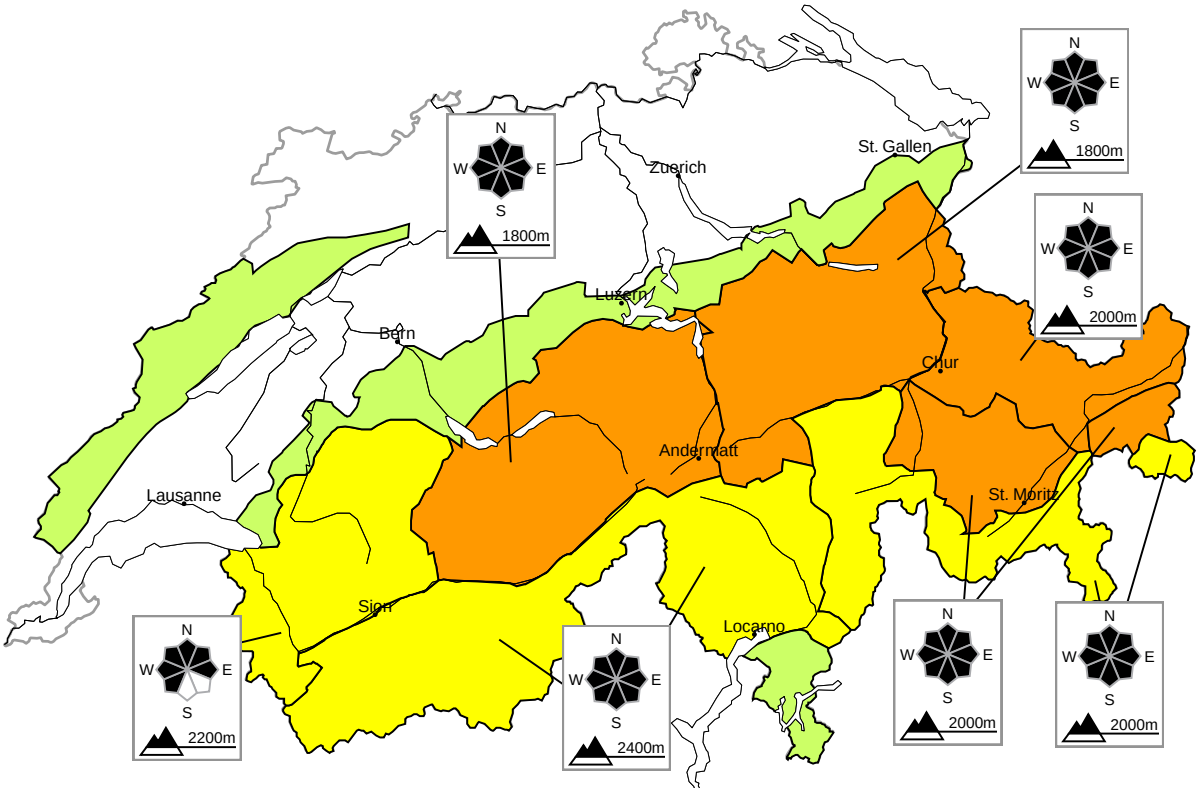
Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 7. February 2023

Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area. Wind slabs and weakly bonded old snow require caution

Edition: 7.2.2023, 08:00 / Next update: 7.2.2023, 17:00

Avalanche danger

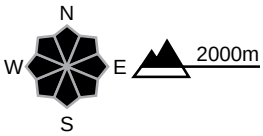
updated on 7.2.2023, 08:00



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

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In all aspects avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including large ones. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible.
Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for caution and restraint.

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

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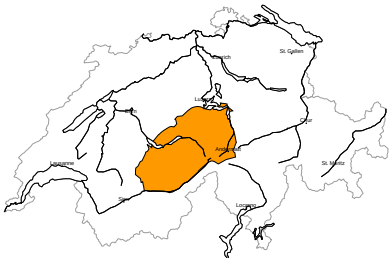
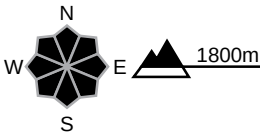
region B — Considerable, Level 3=



Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



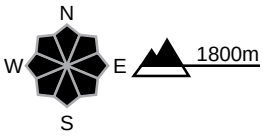
Danger description

As a consequence of a strong southerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed during the night. Avalanches can reach medium size. Wind slabs are to be bypassed in steep terrain.
Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in deeper layers also. Such avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

region C — Considerable, Level 3-

Old snow, Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



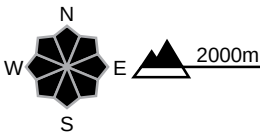
Danger description

In all aspects avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow and reach a dangerous size. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
In addition avalanche prone wind slabs will form in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain during the night. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region D — Considerable, Level 3-

Old snow, Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Avalanches can reach dangerously large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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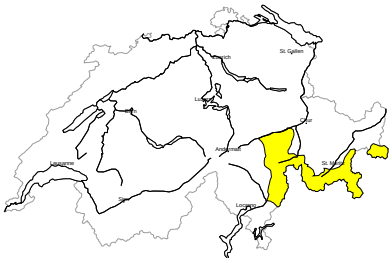
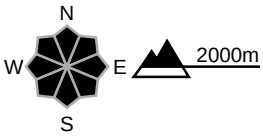
region E

Moderate, Level 2+



Old snow, Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

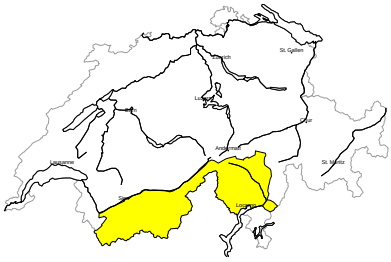


Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released easily, but they will be small in most cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection. Wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed as far as possible.

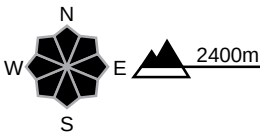
region F

Moderate, Level 2=



Old snow, Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

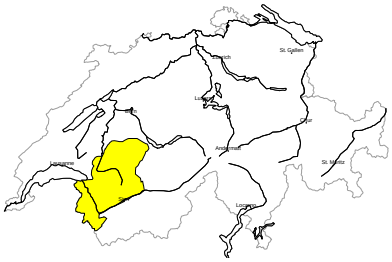


Danger description

To some extent avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.
In addition the more recent wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. Careful route selection is recommended.

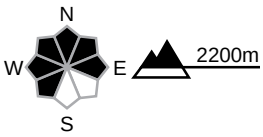
region G

Moderate, Level 2=



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

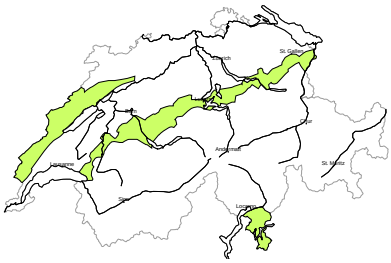


Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can in some cases reach medium size. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.
As a consequence of solar radiation loose snow avalanches are possible.

region H

Low, Level 1



No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Even a small avalanche can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 6.2.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

On Monday night, in particular on the northern flank of the Alps, the strong southerly wind will transport the still loosely bonded fresh snow of recent days and give rise to snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering. Before last week's snowfalls, the surface of the old snowpack was faceted and loosely bonded, in particular in wind-protected terrain at some distance from ridgelines. In consequence, avalanches are most likely to be triggered at the interface between the fresh and older wind slabs and the weak old snow.
In particular from southern Valais through the Gotthard region to Grisons, the entire old snowpack was often faceted as well. In these regions, avalanches can also release the entire snowpack. The bonding of the snowpack is most favourable in the extreme west of Lower Valais and in northern Lower Valais, where hardly any distinct weak layers exist.

Observed weather review Monday, 06.02.2023

During the first half of the night, a little snow fell down to low altitudes over a wide area. The skies then cleared. During the day it was quite sunny in the mountains despite low stratus-like cloud cover.

Fresh snow
From Sunday afternoon until Monday morning above approximately 1000 m:
- Northern flank of the Alps from Les Diablerets into Liechtenstein: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere: a few centimetres over a wide area, dry in the south

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: between approximately -3 °C in the west and -7 °C in the east

Wind
- In the Jura, a moderate bise wind
- Otherwise mostly moderate, in the high Alpine regions sometimes strong, from easterly directions

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 07.02.2023

On Monday night a little snow will fall in the south, even at low altitudes. During the day it will be mostly sunny in all regions.

Fresh snow
Main Alpine ridge in Valais, Gotthard region, central part of the southern flank of the Alps: up to 10 cm

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: between -6 °C in the north and -8 °C in the south

Wind
<ul style="font-size: 13.3333px;"> During the night, strong to storm force from the south for a while Easing during the day and mostly light in the afternoon

Outlook through Thursday, 09.02.2023

Wednesday and Thursday will be mostly sunny and cool. The wind will be sometimes moderate from easterly directions on Wednesday, otherwise it will be light.
The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.