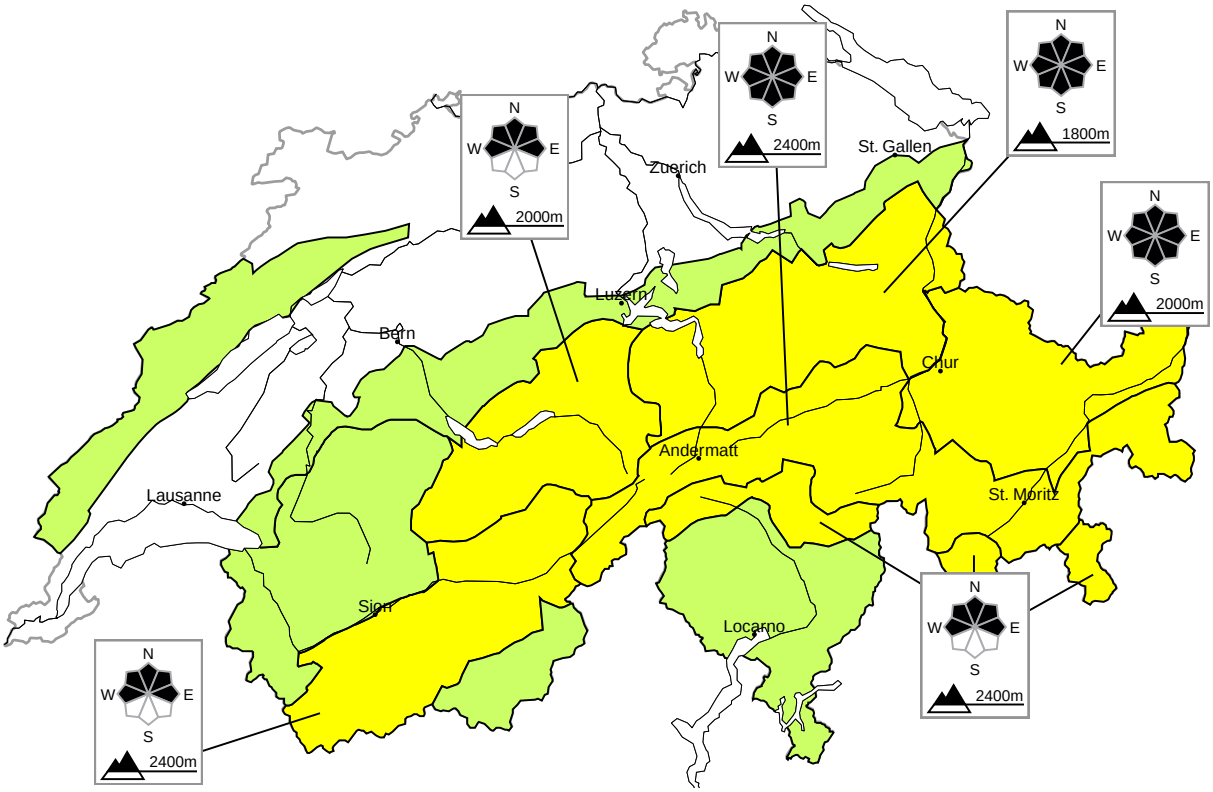
Avalanche bulletin through Monday, 13. February 2023

Weakly bonded old snow requires caution. Wet avalanches during the day

Edition: 12.2.2023, 17:00 / Next update: 13.2.2023, 17:00

Dry avalanches

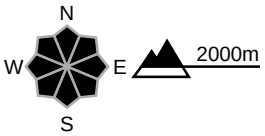
updated on 12.2.2023, 17:00



Dry, region A | **Moderate, Level 2+**

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist in the snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. These can release the weakly bonded old snow as well and reach medium size. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. As a consequence of warming during the day and the solar radiation, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase a little on steep sunny slopes.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

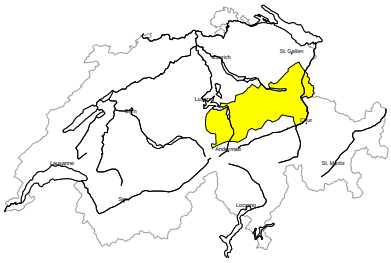
Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

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

Avalanche bulletin through Monday, 13. February 2023

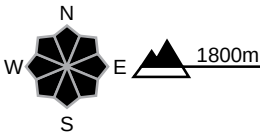
Dry, region B

Moderate, Level 2=



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



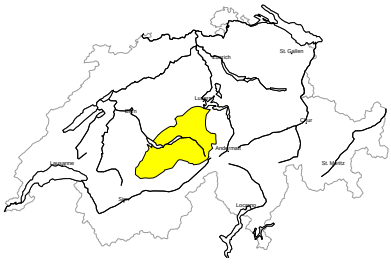
Danger description

Faceted weak layers exist in the centre of the snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. These can in some cases reach medium size. As a consequence of warming during the day and the solar radiation, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase a little on steep sunny slopes.
Careful route selection is important.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

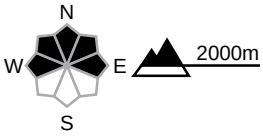
Dry, region C

Moderate, Level 2=



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



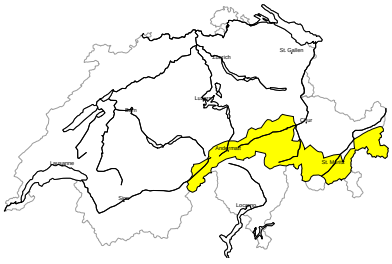
Danger description

Weak layers in the upper part of the snowpack can still be released in some place by people. Avalanches can in some cases reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found especially in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. As a consequence of warming during the day and the solar radiation, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase a little on steep sunny slopes.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

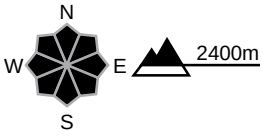
Dry, region D

Moderate, Level 2=



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

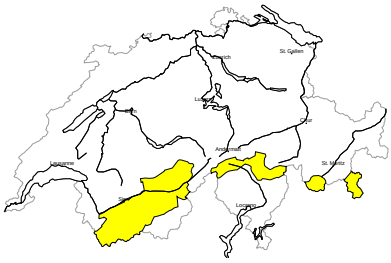
The older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. Avalanches can in some places be released easily and reach medium size. As a consequence of warming during the day and the solar radiation, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase a little on steep sunny slopes.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Avalanche bulletin through Monday, 13. February 2023

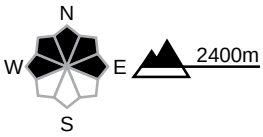
Dry, region E

Moderate, Level 2-



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



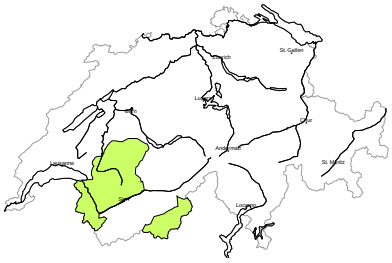
Danger description

The older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released by people. They can in some cases reach medium size. As a consequence of warming during the day and the solar radiation, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase on steep sunny slopes. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, region F

Low, Level 1



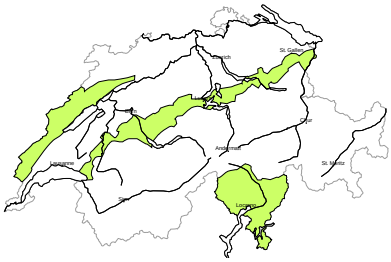
Dry avalanches: no distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. The somewhat older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence especially in terrain where there is a danger of falling. 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. As a consequence of warming during the day and the solar radiation, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase a little on steep sunny slopes.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, region G

Low, Level 1



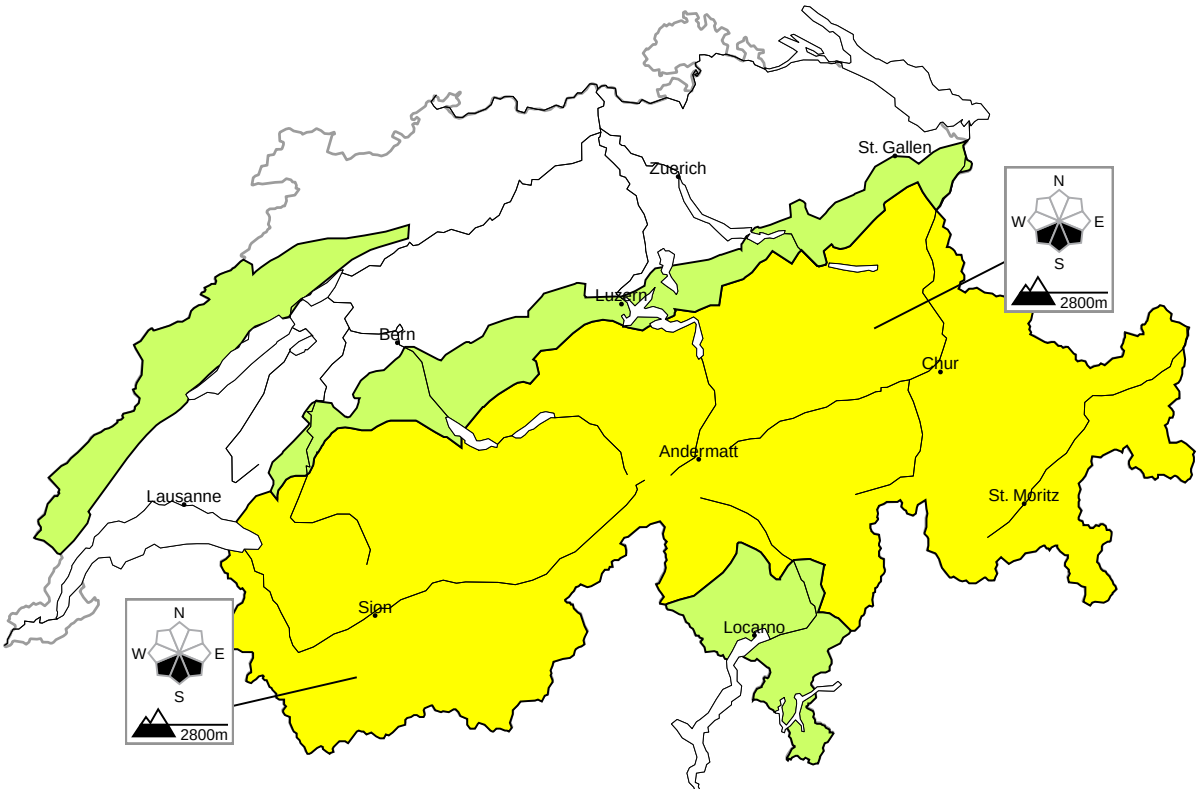
Dry avalanches: no distinct avalanche problem

Only a little snow is lying.
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.

Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

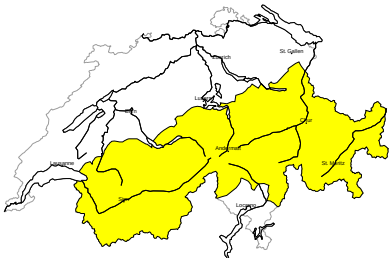
Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 12.2.2023, 17:00



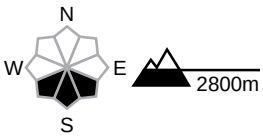
Wet, region A

Moderate, Level 2



Wet avalanches as day progresses

Avalanche prone locations



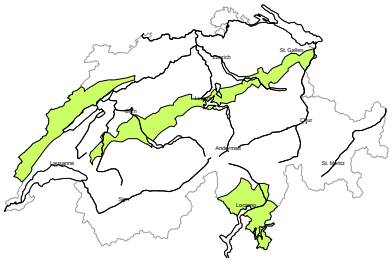
Danger description

On very steep sunny slopes small to medium-sized wet avalanches are possible as a consequence of warming during the day.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Wet, region B

Low, Level 1



Wet avalanches as day progresses

On very steep sunny slopes individual moist snow slides are possible as a consequence of warming during the day.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 12.2.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

Inside the snow cover there are expansively metamorphosed (faceted) and loosely-packed layers of snow evident over widespread areas. On the northern flank of the Allps, these layers are often found in the uppermost part of the snow cover. Particularly in the southern Valais and in Grisons, the entire snow cover is expansively metamorphosed (faceted) in some places. Further to the east the faceted layers are blanketed over by fresh snowfall and snowdrift accumulations which were generated last weekend. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, older snowdrift accumulations frequently lie deposited on top of faceted weakened layers and are prone to triggering.
In the northern and the furthermost western parts of Lower Valais, the snowpack structure is most favourable and there are hardly any pronounced weak layers inside the snowpack.
As a consequence of higher temperatures and solar radiation, wet-snow avalanches can be expected on very steep south-facing slopes during the course of the day.

Observed weather review Sunday, 12.02.2023

Following a night of clear skies, it was sunny and mild during the daytime hours.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +5 °C in the western regions and +3 °C in the eastern regions.

Wind
Winds were blowing at light to moderate strength from northeasterly directions.

Weather forecast through Monday, 13.02.2023

Following a night of clear skies it is expected to be sunny and mild during the daytime hours.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, +4 °C, the zero-degree level will be at approximately 3000 m.

Wind
Winds are expected to be predominantly light.

Outlook through Wednesday, 15.02.2023

Following nights of clear skies it is expected to be sunny and mild during the daytime hours. The zero-degree level will lie at approximately 3000 m.
The danger of dry-snow avalanches will continue to decrease incrementally. On very steep sunny slopes, wet-snow and gliding avalanches can be expected.