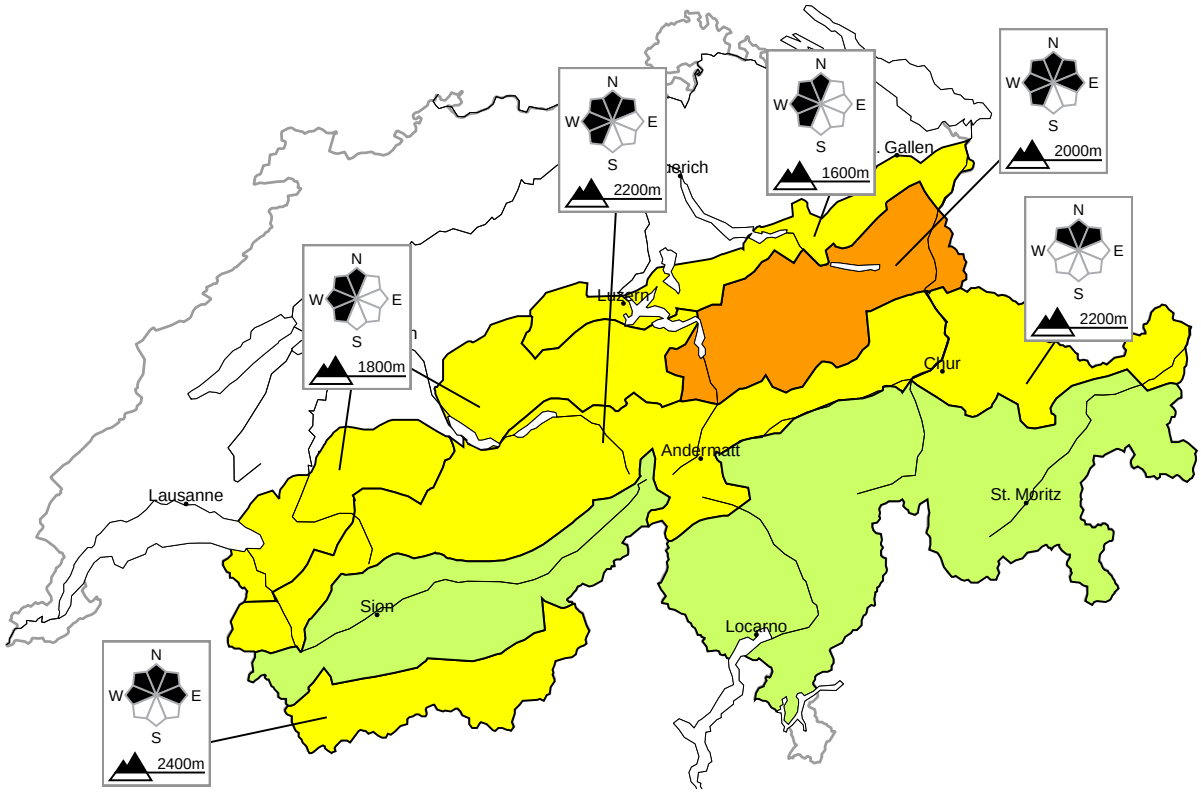
Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 27. February 2023

In the northeast a considerable avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 27.2.2023, 08:00 / Next update: 27.2.2023, 17:00

Avalanche danger

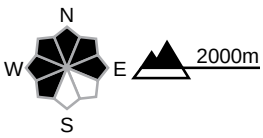
updated on 27.2.2023, 08:00



region A — Considerable, Level 3-

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



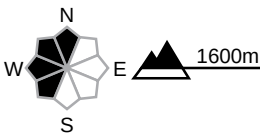
Danger description

The northeasterly wind has transported the new snow. The fresh snow and the sometimes large wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant. In many cases the avalanches are medium-sized. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region B — Moderate, Level 2+

Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The Bise wind has transported the new snow. The wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. Avalanches can reach medium size.
The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

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

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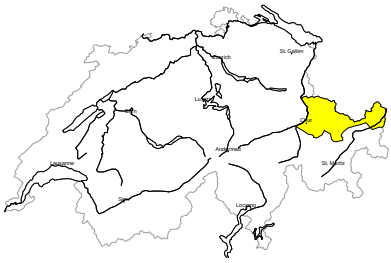
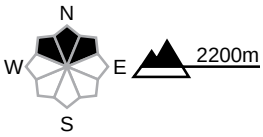
region C

Moderate, Level 2=



Old snow, Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

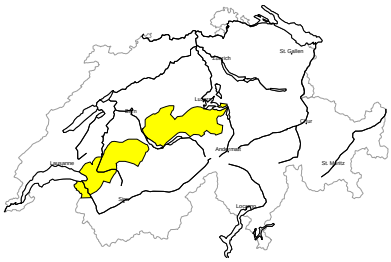


Danger description

Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. These can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on very steep north facing slopes. This applies in particular in little used backcountry terrain. Such avalanche prone locations are rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye.
The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering.
Careful route selection is recommended.

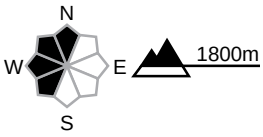
region D

Moderate, Level 2-



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

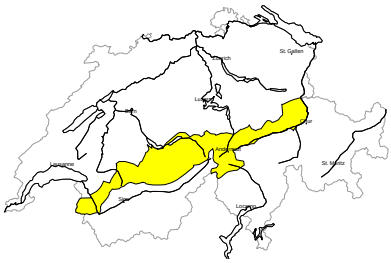


Danger description

The Bise wind has transported the new snow. The wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. The avalanches are rather small.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

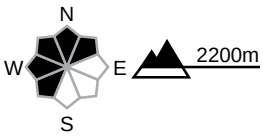
region E

Moderate, Level 2-



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

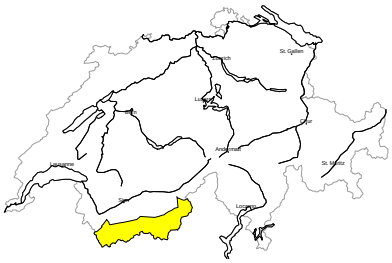


Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate to strong wind, further wind slabs formed. These are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering.
The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

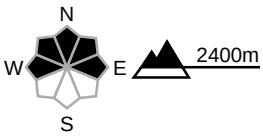
region F

Moderate, Level 2-



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

At elevated altitudes wind slabs formed. These are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain.
Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in the old snowpack in particular on little used shady slopes.
Careful route selection is recommended.

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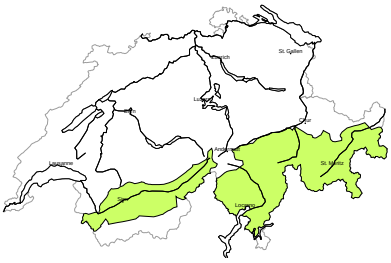
region G

Low, Level 1



Snow drift

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in terrain where there is a danger of falling.
Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in the old snowpack in particular on little used shady slopes. Extremely slopes are to be traversed by snow sport participants one at a time.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 26.2.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else, fresh snowdrift accumulations were generated at elevated altitudes on Friday night as a consequence of the fresh fallen snow accompanied by westerly winds. The snowfall on Saturday night was deposited with little wind impact, so that it can subsequently be transported to an intensive degree by rising bise winds on Sunday afternoon. Further to the west, the snow which has been deposited is unlikely to be transported. The snowdrift accumulations will be deposited on top of a rough-hewn and, therefore, favourable snowpack surface over widespread areas. Only on wind-protected high-altitude shady slopes will the snowdrift accumulations be deposited atop an expansively metamorphosed (faceted) and loose, therefore, less favourable snowpack surface. In the southern Valais and in the Grisons on northern slopes, the entire snow cover is expansively metamorphosed (faceted) and loose to a large degree.
Snow depths throughout the Swiss Alps are far below average. At high altitudes in the flat fields where the measurement station devices make their recordings, they amount to only half of the customary values.

Observed weather review Sunday, 26.02.2023

In the western regions at heightened altitudes it was partly sunny, in the other regions of Switzerland skies were predominantly overcast. During the night there was snowfall in the northeastern regions more than anywhere else, subsequently during the afternoon in the southern Valais. The snowfall level was in the low lying areas.

Fresh snow
Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were registered:
- on the northern flank of the Alps from the Titlis over the Glarus Alps as far as the Alpstein: 10 to 20 cm;
- from the northern Prättigau as far as the Silvretta, as well as from Monte Rosa as far as the Simplon region: 5 to 10 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, less; or else it remained dry.

Thus, on the northern flank of the Alps from the Titlis over the Glarus Alps as far as the Alpstein, overall 30 to 40 cm of fresh fallen snow has been registered above approximately 2000 m since Friday midday, more in some places in the Alpstein.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -13 °C in the northern regions and -8 °C in the southern regions.

Wind
- Winds on Saturday evening were blowing at moderate strength, from place to place at strong velocity, from westerly directions;
- subsequently, winds were blowing at moderate strength, intensifying in strength during the course of the day in the western Prealps, from northeasterly directions.
- In the southern regions winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northerly directions.

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Weather forecast through Monday, 27.02.2023

Particularly during the nocturnal hours, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated from region to region down to the low lying areas. During the daytime hours in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais, it will be rather sunny. In the remaining regions of Switzerland there will be sunny intervals expected in the southern regions.

Fresh snow
Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon in the Valais part of the Main Alpine Ridge, 5 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated from region to region; in the other regions, less.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -6 °C in the northern regions and -9 °C in the southern regions.

Wind
- During the night on the northern flank of the Alps and in the western part of the Prealps, storm-strength northeasterly winds will be blowing, in the other regions winds will be blowing at moderate strength.
- During the daytime hours along the Prealps, moderate to strong-velocity bise winds will be blowing. In the other regions of Switzerland, generally moderate-strength southerly winds will prevail.

Outlook through Wednesday, 01.03.2023

On Tuesday in the southern regions skies will be overcast, accompanied by a small amount of snowfall; in the other regions it will be partly sunny. The zero-degree level will ascend to approximately 2000 m. On Wednesday it will be predominantly sunny in the mountains. Winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength on both days.
Avalanche danger levels are expected to incrementally decrease.