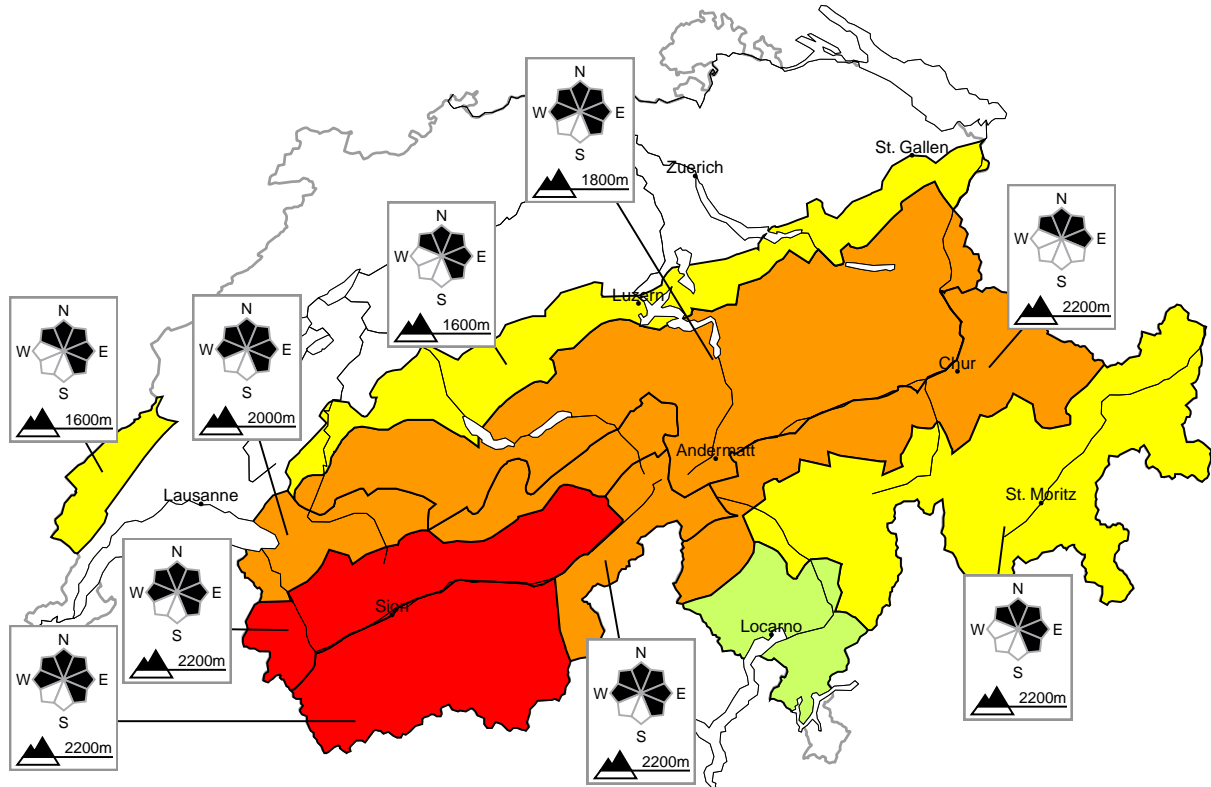


# In Valais a high avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 11.3.2023, 08:00 / Next update: 11.3.2023, 17:00

## Avalanche danger

updated on 11.3.2023, 08:00

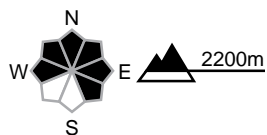


**region A** **High, Level 4-**



### New snow

#### Avalanche prone locations

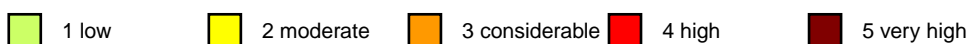


#### Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and stormy weather the already large wind slabs will increase in size additionally. The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Numerous medium-sized to large natural avalanches are to be expected. To some extent avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers. In the typical avalanche paths avalanches can in isolated cases reach intermediate altitudes and endanger transportation routes that are exposed. The conditions are dangerous for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

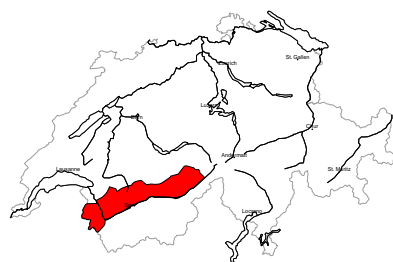
Avalanche bulletin survey: intermediate levels - helpful or confusing? [Link to the survey in AvaBlog](#) (on SLF-App WhiteRisk or at slf.ch)

Danger levels



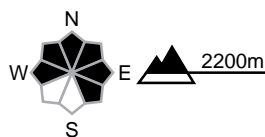
region B

High, Level 4-



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



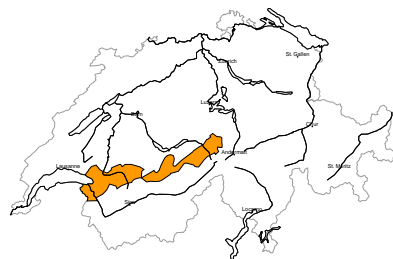
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and stormy weather the already large wind slabs will increase in size additionally. The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Numerous medium-sized to large natural avalanches are to be expected. The danger exists in particular in alpine snow sports terrain. In the typical avalanche paths avalanches can in isolated cases reach intermediate altitudes and endanger transportation routes that are exposed. The conditions are dangerous for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

Avalanche bulletin survey: intermediate levels - helpful or confusing? Link to the survey in AvaBlog (on SLF-App WhiteRisk or at slf.ch)

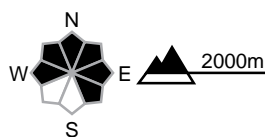
region C

Considerable, Level 3+



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and stormy weather the wind slabs will increase in size additionally. The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. Natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Avalanche bulletin survey: intermediate levels - helpful or confusing? Link to the survey in AvaBlog (on SLF-App WhiteRisk or at slf.ch)



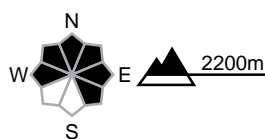
region D

Considerable, Level 3+



New snow, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



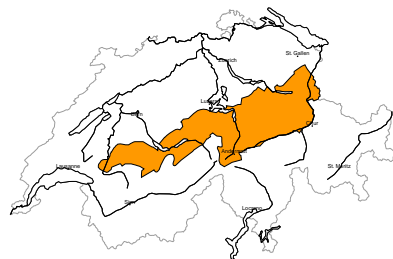
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and stormy weather the wind slabs will increase in size additionally. The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released easily and reach large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Natural avalanches are possible. To some extent avalanches can also release the entire snowpack. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Avalanche bulletin survey: intermediate levels - helpful or confusing? Link to the survey in AvaBlog (on SLF-App WhiteRisk or at slf.ch)

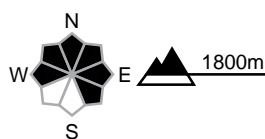
region E

Considerable, Level 3=



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



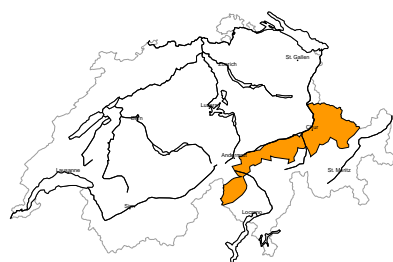
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and wind the wind slabs will increase in size additionally. The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Avalanche bulletin survey: intermediate levels - helpful or confusing? Link to the survey in AvaBlog (on SLF-App WhiteRisk or at slf.ch)

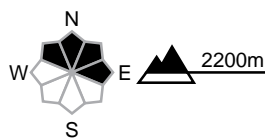
region F

Considerable, Level 3-



Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



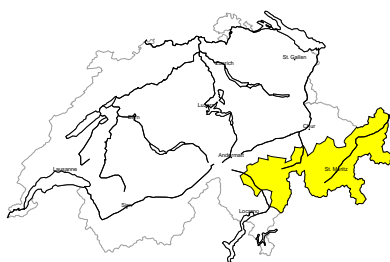
Danger description

The fresh wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can in some places be released very easily and reach medium size. Avalanches can additionally be released in deep layers. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Avalanche bulletin survey: intermediate levels - helpful or confusing? Link to the survey in AvaBlog (on SLF-App WhiteRisk or at slf.ch)

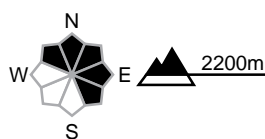
region G

Moderate, Level 2=



Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs can be released easily in some places. They are rather small. Careful route selection is recommended. Avalanches can additionally in 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.

Avalanche bulletin survey: intermediate levels - helpful or confusing? Link to the survey in AvaBlog (on SLF-App WhiteRisk or at slf.ch)

region H

Moderate, Level 2-



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



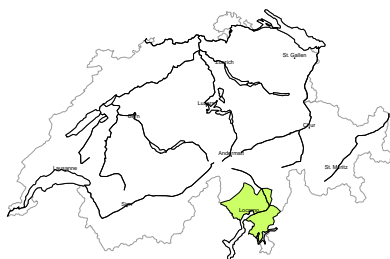
Danger description

The fresh wind slabs represent the main danger. They are rather small but in some cases prone to triggering. 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.

Avalanche bulletin survey: intermediate levels - helpful or confusing? Link to the survey in AvaBlog (on SLF-App WhiteRisk or at slf.ch)

region I

Low, Level 1



Snow drift

The fresh and older wind slabs represent the main danger. They are only small but in some cases prone to triggering. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

Avalanche bulletin survey: intermediate levels - helpful or confusing? Link to the survey in AvaBlog (on SLF-App WhiteRisk or at slf.ch)

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.3.2023, 17:00

### Snowpack

As a consequence of heavy snowfall over widespread areas accompanied by storm-strength westerly winds, the snowdrift accumulations are continuing to grow in number and in size in the western and the northern regions. Fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrift accumulations lie deposited on shady slopes atop an unfavourable old snowpack surface over widespread areas. Avalanches can be very easily triggered in those locations or even, in the major areas of precipitation, trigger naturally. On sunny slopes the old snowpack surface was more favourably structured prior to the precipitation. On the northern flank of the Alps on north-facing slopes, furthermore, there are expansively metamorphosed (faceted) layers deeply embedded inside the snow cover in some places. In the southern Valais and in Grisons on north-facing slopes over widespread areas, the entire old snowpack is expansively metamorphosed (faceted) and loosely-packed. In the southern Valais more than anywhere else, avalanches can fracture down to deeply embedded layers in the snowpack.

### Observed weather review Friday, 10.03.2023

There was precipitation registered over far-reaching areas, most of it fell in the western regions. The snowfall level lay between 1300 and 1700 m. In the southern regions it was partly sunny.

#### Fresh snow

Between Thursday evening and Friday afternoon the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above 2000 m:

- northern and furthestmost western parts of the Lower Valais: 25 to 45 cm;
- Vaud Alps, remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Upper Valais as well as remaining parts of the Lower Valais: 15 to 25 cm;
- Jura region, remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of the Valais, Main Alpine Ridge from San Bernadino as far as Bernina Pass: 5 to 15 cm;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres.

Thus, since the beginning of the most recent period of precipitation on Tuesday evening, the following overall amounts of fresh snow have been registered above approximately 2200 m:

- furthestmost western part of the Lower Valais: 60 to 80 cm;
- remaining parts of Lower Valais, northern Valais, Binntal, Goms: 40 to 60 cm;
- Upper Valais, remaining parts of the northern Alpine Ridge west of the Aare: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, less.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -2 °C in the western and the northern regions, +1 °C in the southern and the eastern regions.

#### Wind

Winds were blowing from westerly directions,

- at strong velocity in the northern regions and in general at heightened altitudes;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, blowing predominantly at moderate strength.

## Weather forecast through Saturday, 11.03.2023

Precipitation is anticipated over widespread areas, expected to be intensive in the western and the northern regions. The snowfall level during the nocturnal hours will be at low lying areas, subsequently will ascend during the course of the day in western regions to nearly 1500 m. In the southern regions it is expected to be predominantly sunny during the daytime hours.

### Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above 1800 m:

- Valais not including Goms, northern Alpine Ridge west of the Reuss: 30 to 50 cm; as much as 70 cm in the furthest western regions;
- remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps, Goms: 15 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 5 to 15 cm over widespread areas; in the southern regions it is expected to remain dry.

### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the southwestern regions and -5 °C in the northeastern regions.

### Wind

Winds in the northern regions

- will be blowing at strong velocity at heightened altitudes, intermittently blowing at storm strength, from westerly directions;
- in the other regions of Switzerland blowing predominantly at moderate strength.

Winds in the southern regions

- will be blowing at strong velocity, at storm-strength at elevated altitudes, from northwesterly directions.

## Outlook through Monday, 13.03.2023

### Sunday

On Sunday, skies will be heavily overcast for the most part and further precipitation is anticipated until midday. The snowfall level will lie at approximately 1500 m. In the Valais and well as on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, approximately 15 to 30 cm of fresh snow is expected to fall, in the other regions, less. In the northern regions the storm-strength westerly winds will slacken off during the course of the day. In the southern regions it will be predominantly sunny as a result of the often strong-velocity northerly winds.

As the precipitation rounds to a close and the stormy winds slacken off during the course of the day, naturally triggered avalanche activity will decrease. For winter sports enthusiasts who are active in backcountry apart from secured ski runs, the avalanche situation in the western and the northern regions remains critical over widespread areas. As a consequence of solar radiation and higher daytime temperatures, moist avalanches can be expected to trigger from the fresh fallen snow on sunny slopes. In the southern regions and in the Grisons, the avalanche situation is more favourable.

### Monday

During the daytime hours it is expected to be quite sunny. Temperatures will rise significantly, the zero-degree level will ascend to nearly 3000 m. Winds in the northern regions will be blowing at strong velocity, in the southern regions at moderate strength, from westerly directions.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches is expected to decrease in the western and the northern regions, however will remain treacherous for winter sports enthusiasts in backcountry terrain away from secured ski runs. As a result of solar radiation and rising daytime temperatures, most avalanches can be expected to release from the fresh fallen snow on sunny slopes in the major areas of precipitation.