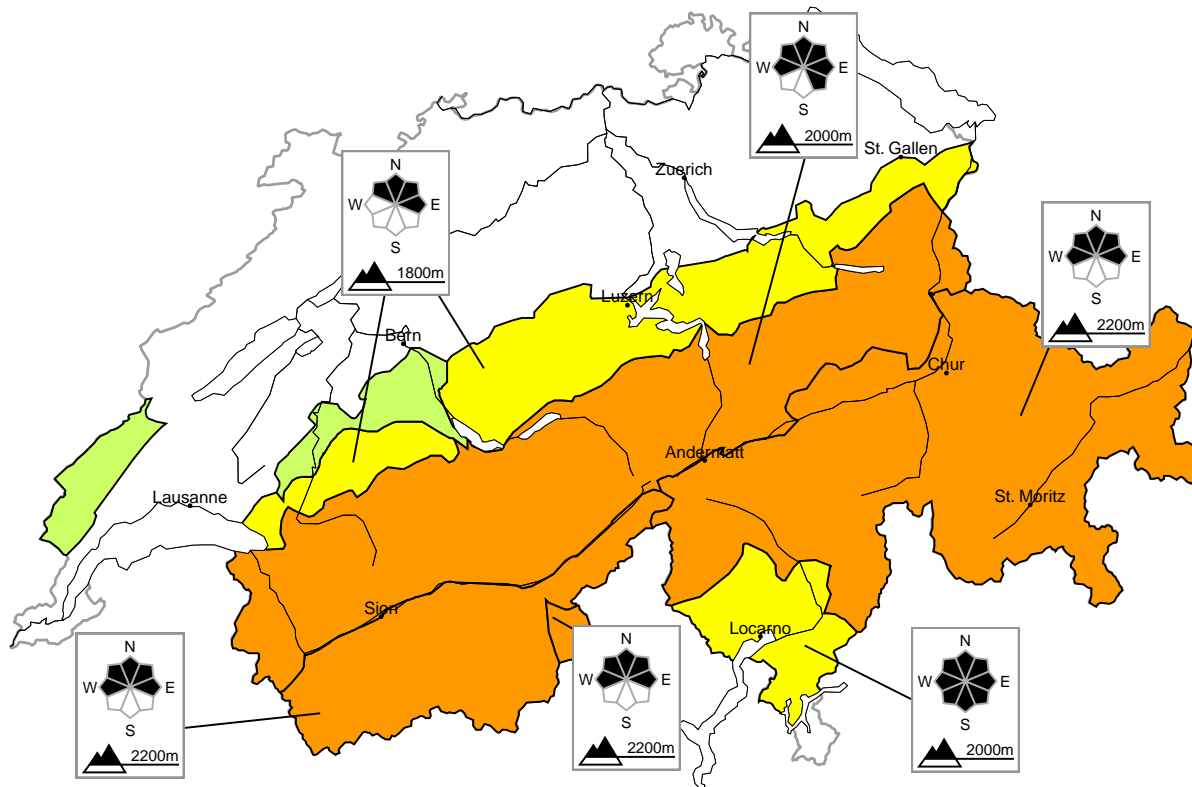


Weakly bonded old snow on north facing slopes. A critical avalanche situation will prevail, especially in Valais

Edition: 16.3.2023, 08:00 / Next update: 16.3.2023, 17:00

Dry avalanches

updated on 16.3.2023, 08:00

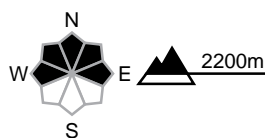


Dry, region A Considerable, Level 3+



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Remotely triggered and natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on steep north facing slopes and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. As a consequence of warming during the day and the solar radiation, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Restraint is recommended, especially on steep north facing slopes.

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

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 considerable

4 high

5 very high



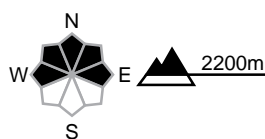
Dry, region B

Considerable, Level 3=



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Remotely triggered and natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size in some cases. Whumpfung 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. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Care is required, especially on steep north facing slopes.

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

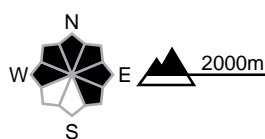
Dry, region C

Considerable, Level 3=



New snow, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



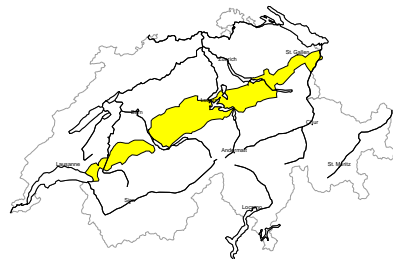
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last three days can be released by a single winter sport participant. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on steep north facing slopes and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. As a consequence of warming during the day and the solar radiation, the likelihood of dry avalanches being released will increase. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

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

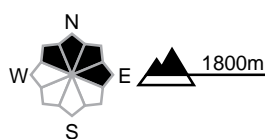
Dry, region D

Moderate, Level 2=



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



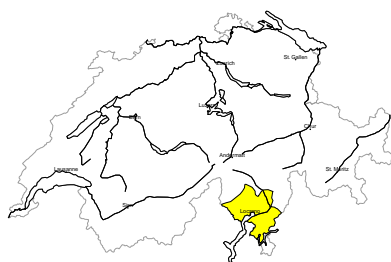
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last three days can be released in some cases. The avalanche prone locations are to be found especially adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. 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.

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

Dry, region E

Moderate, Level 2-



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



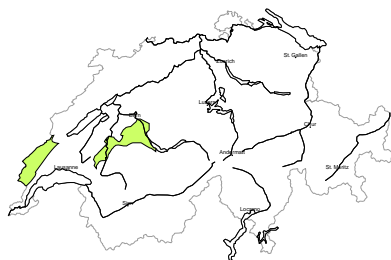
Danger description

The wind slabs of Wednesday 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.

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

Dry, region F

Low, Level 1



Snow drift

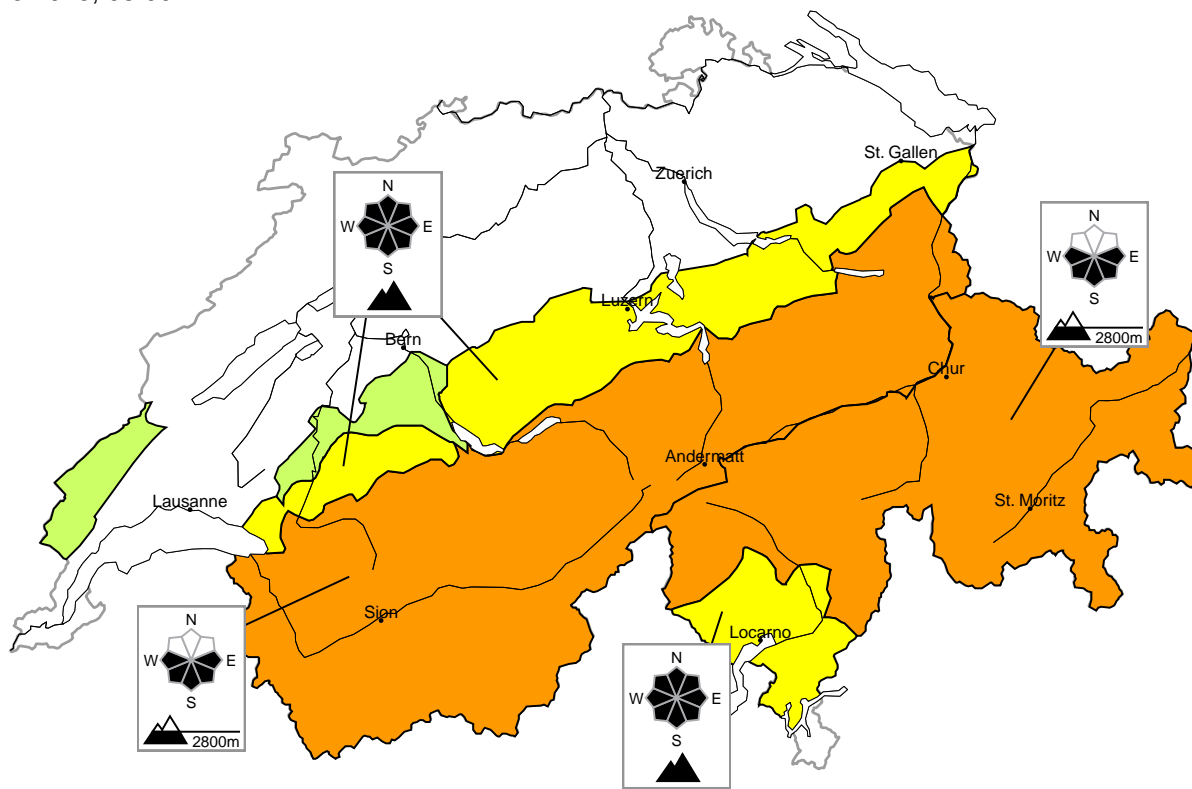
The small wind slabs of the last few days are in individual cases still prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

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

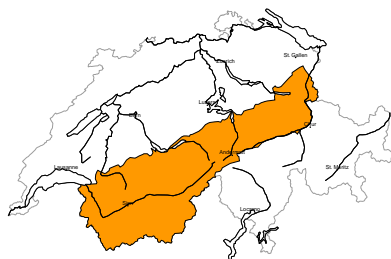


Wet avalanches as day progresses

updated on 16.3.2023, 08:00

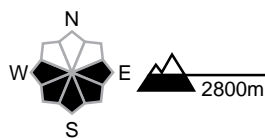


Wet, region A Considerable, Level 3



Wet avalanches as day progresses

Avalanche prone locations

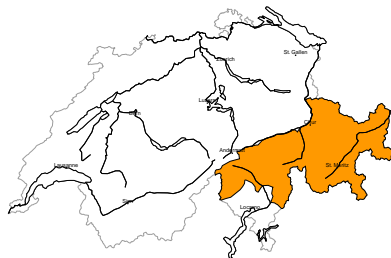


Danger description

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected, even large ones in isolated cases. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be concluded timely.

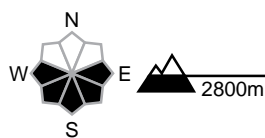
Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Wet, region B Considerable, Level 3



Wet avalanches as day progresses

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small and medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be concluded timely.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 considerable

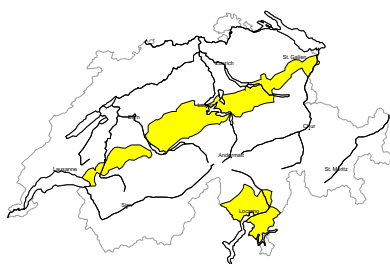
4 high

5 very high



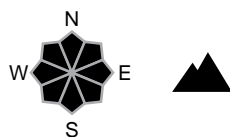
Wet, region C

Moderate, Level 2



Wet avalanches as day progresses

Avalanche prone locations



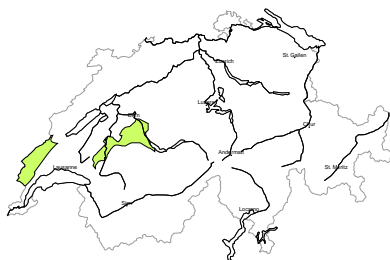
Danger description

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation small to medium-sized moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Wet, region D

Low, Level 1



Wet avalanches as day progresses

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation wet snow slides are possible.

Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)



Snowpack and weather

updated on 15.3.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

Fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrifts from Tuesday are still triggerable in some places. Furthermore, expansively metamorphosed (faceted) weak layers which are evident deeply embedded inside the snow cover are still prone to triggering, particularly on north-facing slopes. In the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, these weak layers are for the most part blanketed with thick layers of fresher snow. Avalanches can be triggered in particular still in places where the snow is relatively shallow in these expansively metamorphosed (faceted) layers deeply inside the old snowpack and subsequently grow to large size. In the Ticino and in central and southern Grisons, these weak layers are located nearer to the surface and thus, are still more easily triggerable. As a consequence of intense solar radiation and a significant rise in temperatures, increasingly frequent medium-sized, in western regions also large-sized wet-snow and gliding avalanches can be expected during the course of the day.

Observed weather review Wednesday, 15.03.2023

On Tuesday night there was intermittent snowfall registered in the northern regions, in the Valais and in Grisons. The snowfall level descended from 2000 m down to low lying areas. In the southern regions it remained dry. During the daytime hours it was dry and quite sunny in all the regions of Switzerland.

Fresh snow

Between Tuesday midday and Wednesday morning the following amounts of fresh snow were registered above 2000 m:

- northern and furthestmost western parts of the Lower Valais, Glarus Alps: 20 to 40 cm;
- in the remaining regions 10 to 20 cm widespread;
- on the southern flank of the Alps it remained dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -7 °C in the northern regions and -3 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- On Tuesday night, winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northwesterly directions.
- During the daytime hours on the southern flank of the Alps, winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northerly directions, in the other regions of Switzerland at light to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Thursday, 16.03.2023

Nocturnal skies on Wednesday night will be partly cloudy in the eastern regions, in the other regions of Switzerland skies will be predominantly clear. During the daytime hours on Thursday it will be sunny.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

Temperatures are expected to rise. At midday, between +3 °C in the western regions, +1 °C in the eastern regions and -3 °C in the southern regions; in late afternoon the zero-degree level in the western regions will reach 3000 m.

Wind

Winds are expected to be blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly directions.

Outlook through Saturday, 18.03.2023

On Friday it will be sunny and very mild. The zero-degree level will lie at 3300 m. On Saturday it will be only partly sunny. The zero-degree level will lie at 2400 m.

The danger of dry-snow avalanches will continue to decrease. As a consequence of daytime rise in temperatures and solar radiation, wet-snow and gliding avalanches can be expected.