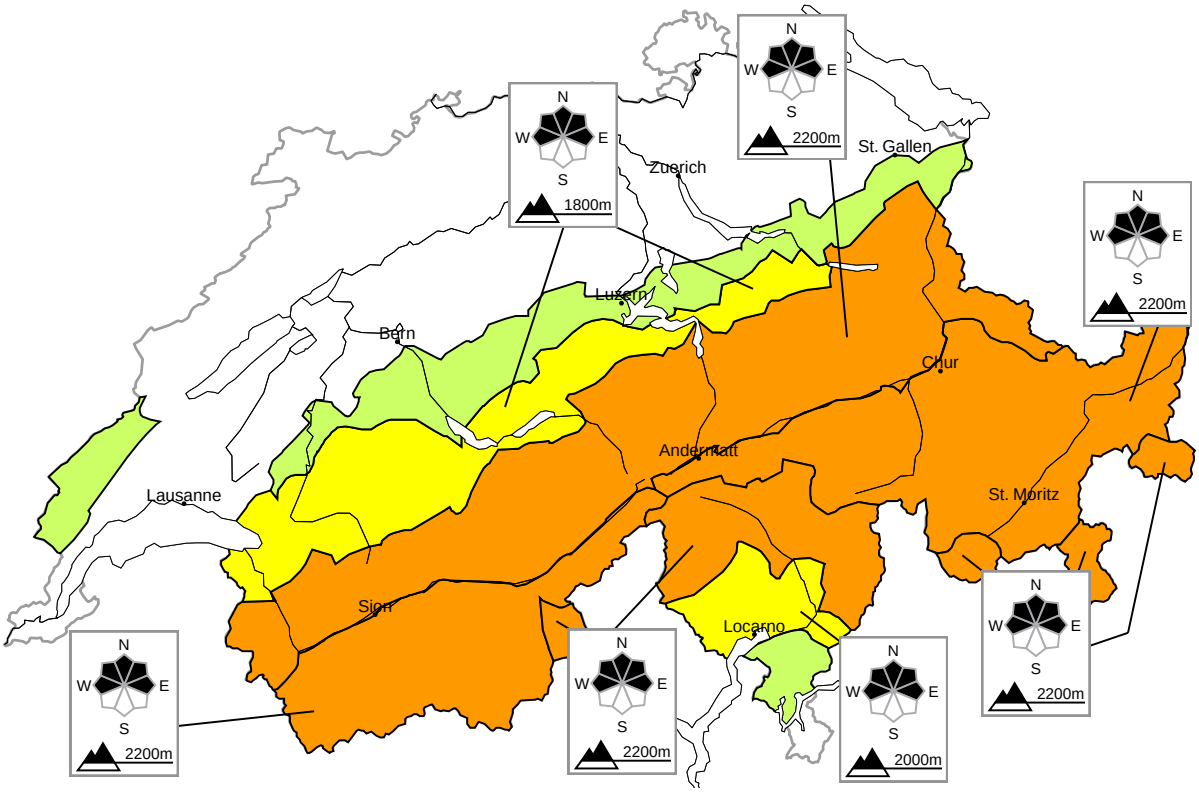
Weakly bonded old snow on north facing slopes. Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 17.3.2023, 08:00 / Next update: 17.3.2023, 17:00

Dry avalanches

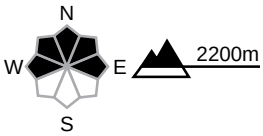
updated on 17.3.2023, 08:00



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

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. 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. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.
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)

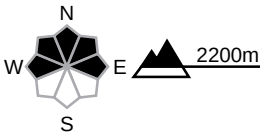
Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 considerable 4 high 5 very high

Dry, region B

Considerable, Level 3=

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size in some cases. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. Care is required, especially on steep north facing slopes.

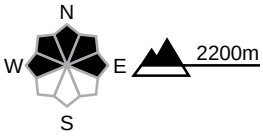
Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, region C

Considerable, Level 3-

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
In isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size in some cases. 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. Additionally in some places avalanches can also be released in near-surface layers.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

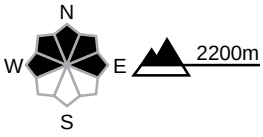
Additional danger: Wet avalanches as day progresses (see 2nd map)

Dry, region D

Considerable, Level 3-

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



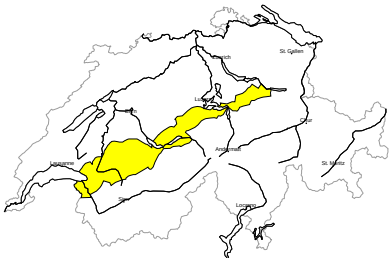
Danger description
The somewhat older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches in some places, including medium-sized ones. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

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

Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 17. March 2023

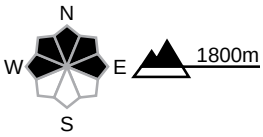
Dry, region E

Moderate, Level 2=



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



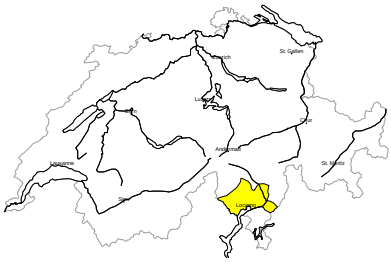
Danger description

Avalanches can in some places be released by people and reach medium size. Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack. These avalanche prone locations are to be found especially on steep north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. Careful route selection is recommended.

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

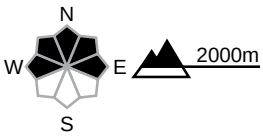
Dry, region F

Moderate, Level 2-



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



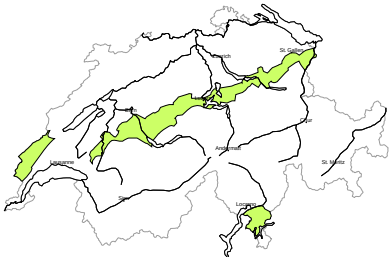
Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes. They are mostly only 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.

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

Dry, region G

Low, Level 1



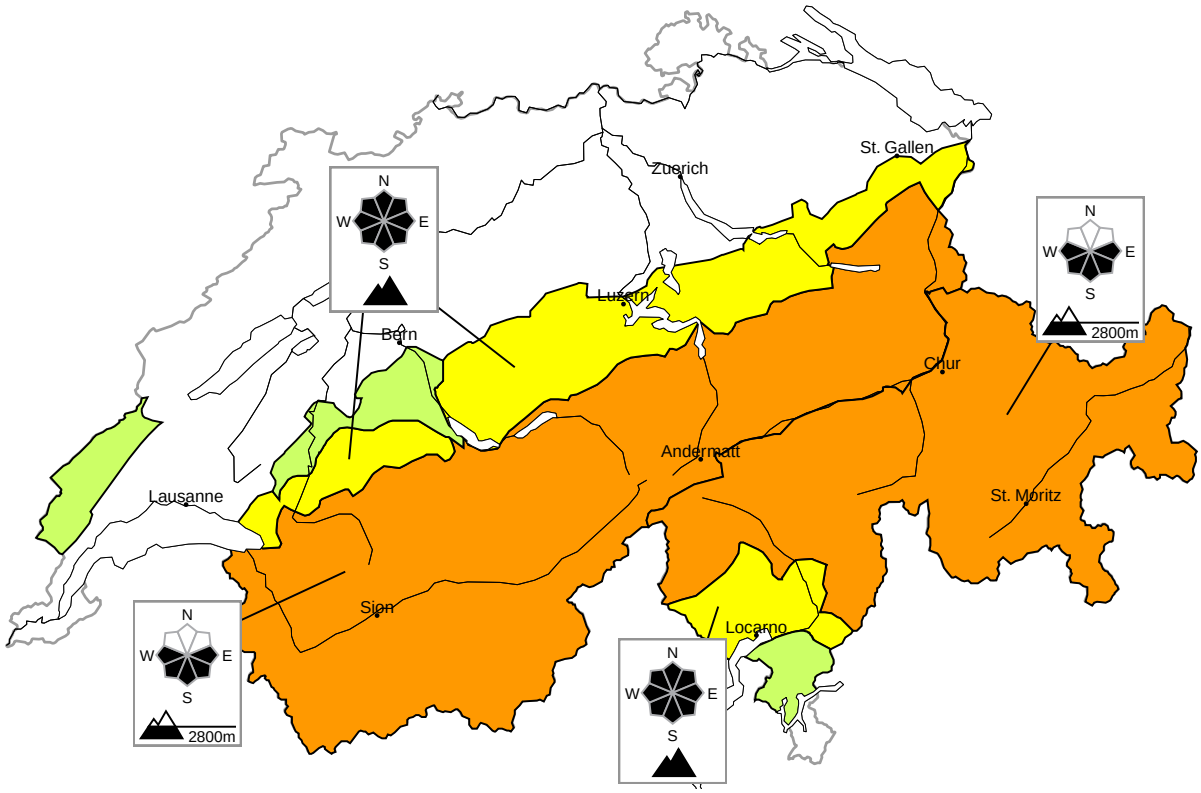
Dry avalanches: no distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches 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 17.3.2023, 08:00

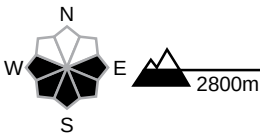


Wet, region A

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.

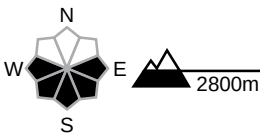
Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Wet, region B

Considerable, Level 3

Wet avalanches as day progresses

Avalanche prone locations

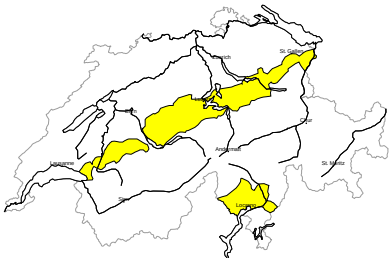


Danger description

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.

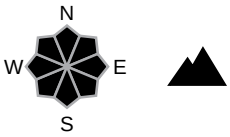
Additional danger: Dry avalanches (see 1st map)

Wet, region C — Moderate, Level 2



Wet avalanches as day progresses

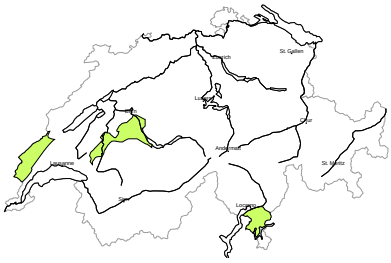
Avalanche prone locations



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 16.3.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

On north-facing slopes above 2200 m more than anywhere else, there are expansively metamorphosed (faceted) weak layers evident inside the snowpack over widespread areas. In the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps these weak layers are for the most part thickly blanketed over with fresher snow. Avalanches in those areas can most likely trigger in those deeply embedded expansively metamorphosed (faceted) layers in places where the snow is rather shallow, and subsequently grow to large size. In Grisons and in the Ticino, these weak layers are located nearer to the snow surface and thereby are still easier to trigger.
As a consequence of the intensive solar radiation and the ongoing rise in temperatures, medium-sized, in the western regions also large-sized wet-snow and gliding avalanches can be expected.

Observed weather review Thursday, 16.03.2023

Following a night of predominantly clear nocturnal skies on Wednesday night it will be quite sunny during the daytime hours on Thursday.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +3 °C in the western regions and 0 °C in the eastern and the southern regions.

Wind
Winds during the nighttime hours will be blowing intermittently at moderate to strong velocity, during the daytime hours blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly to northwesterly directions.

Weather forecast through Friday, 17.03.2023

Nighttime skies on Thursday will be partly clear. During the daytime hours on Friday it will be quite sunny in spite of cirrus clouds.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, in the northern regions +7 °C and in the southern regions 0 °C; the zero-degree level will lie at approximately 3400 m.

Wind
Winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength from southwesterly directions, in the foehn-impacted regions of the north moderate-strength southerly foehn wind will prevail.

Outlook through Sunday, 19.03.2023

On Saturday it will be sunny to start with. During the course of the day, cloud cover will move in from the west, but it is expected to remain dry. On Saturday night and during the daytime hours on Sunday, skies will be predominantly overcast in the western regions, a bit of intermittent snowfall is anticipated. The snowfall level will lie at 1500 m. In the eastern regions it will be partly sunny and dry.
The danger of dry-snow avalanches is expected to gradually decrease. As a consequence of daytime warming, wet-snow and gliding avalanches can be expected on Saturday in particular.