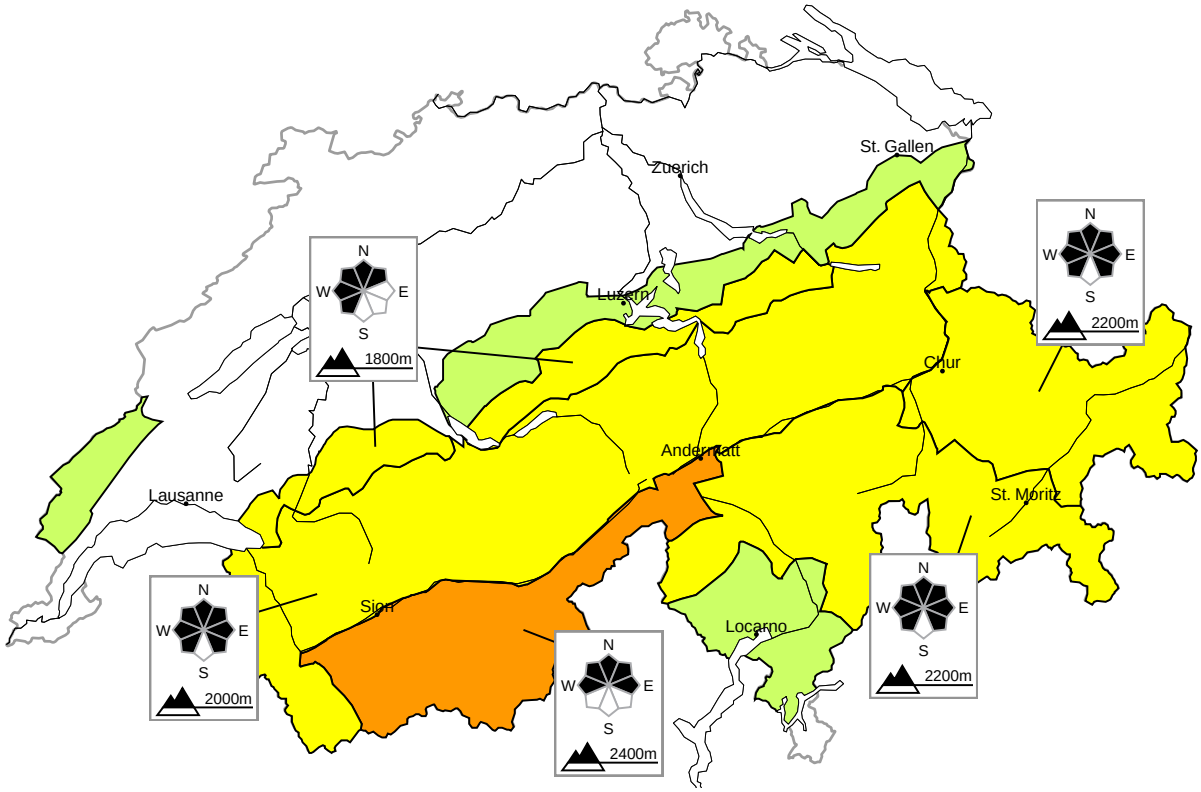
Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 5. April 2023

In southern Valais a considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

Edition: 5.4.2023, 08:00 / Next update: 5.4.2023, 17:00

Avalanche danger

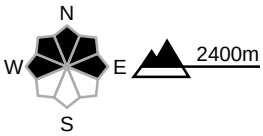
updated on 5.4.2023, 08:00



region A | **Considerable, Level 3-**

Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

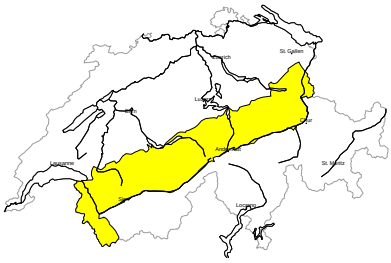
In some places avalanches can be released in deep layers and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow.
In addition the fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases. They are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls and generally in the high Alpine regions. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Wet avalanches as day progresses, Gliding avalanches

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies especially on steep sunny slopes at high altitude.

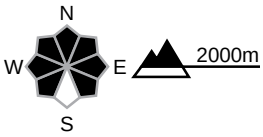
Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 considerable 4 high 5 very high

region B — Moderate, Level 2+



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong northeasterly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed. They are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls and generally in the high Alpine regions. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

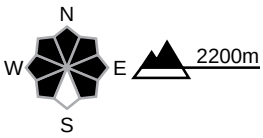
Gliding avalanches

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are possible. This applies especially on sunny slopes at high altitude.

region C — Moderate, Level 2+

Snow drift, Old snow

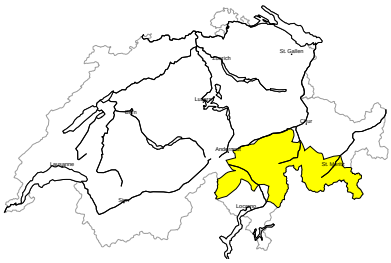
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

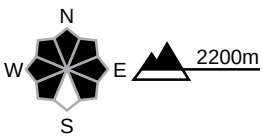
As a consequence of a sometimes strong northeasterly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed. They are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls and generally in the high Alpine regions. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.
Avalanche prone weak layers exist in the old snowpack. Such avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on rather lightly snow-covered shady slopes above approximately 2400 m. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region D — Moderate, Level 2=



Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls and generally in the high Alpine regions. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow in particular on very steep north facing slopes. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Careful route selection is recommended.

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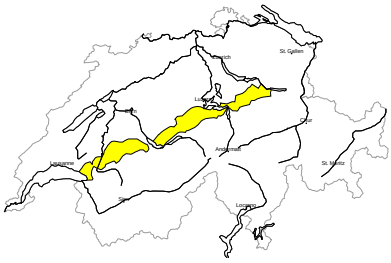
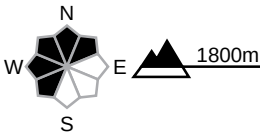
region E

Moderate, Level 2-



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

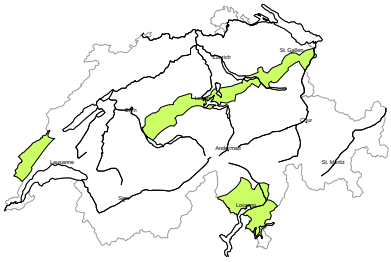


Danger description

Fresh wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. Mostly avalanches are small. Careful route selection is recommended.

region F

Low, Level 1



Snow drift

Fresh wind slabs are small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in extremely steep terrain. Even a small snow slide can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.4.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

The occasionally strong northeasterly wind has given rise to snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering in some places.
In particular in Valais and Ticino, a layer containing Saharan dust exists underneath the fresh snow that fell at the weekend. At the start of this week, in some places individual avalanches have been triggered in the weak layer that has formed in this section of the snowpack.
Deeper in the snowpack, in particular on west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2200 m, weak layers exist in the old snowpack over a wide area. On the northern flank of the Alps and in western Lower Valais these are mostly covered by thick layers of snow and therefore unlikely to be released any more by the weight of snow sport participants. In particular in central and southern Grisons and to some extent in northern Grisons and southern Valais as well, these weak layers of old snow are nearer the surface and therefore remain more prone to triggering.

Observed weather review Tuesday, 04.04.2023

After a mostly clear night, it was mostly sunny.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: between -2 °C in Valais and the south and -6 °C in the other regions

Wind
Moderate to strong over a wide area, light to moderate in Valais, from the northeast

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 05.04.2023

The night will be mostly clear. During the day it will be mostly sunny despite some cirrostratus and convective cloud in the north.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: between -4 °C in the southwest and -7 °C in the northeast

Wind
Mostly light, occasionally moderate on the main Alpine ridge, from northerly directions

Outlook through Friday, 07.04.2023

Thursday
After a clear night, it will be sunny at first. During the day, cloud will build up from the west. The wind will be light to moderate from the west to north.
The avalanche danger will decrease. Individual wet snow and gliding avalanches are possible.

Friday
It will be frequently cloudy. Snow will fall at times above approximately 1000 m.
The avalanche situation will change very little.