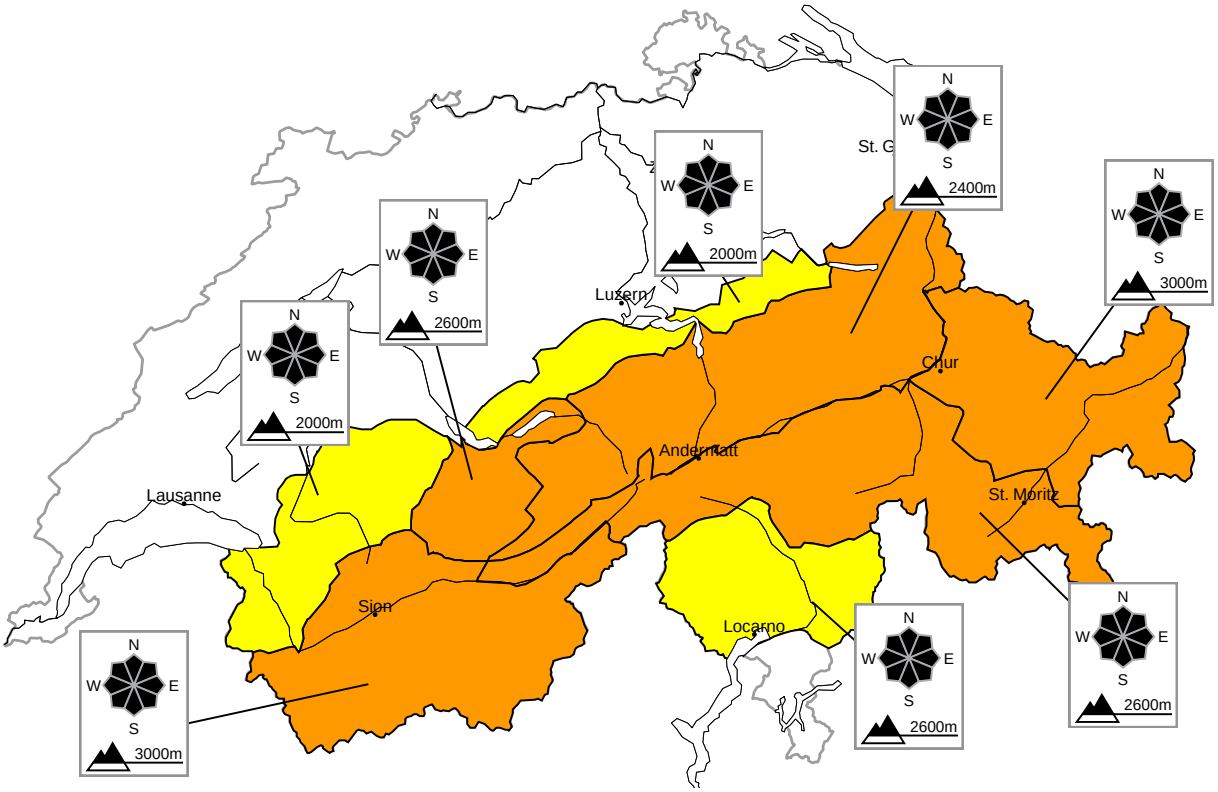
Wind and new snow: At elevated altitudes a considerable avalanche danger will prevail

Edition: 16.5.2023, 17:00 / Next update: 17.5.2023, 17:00

Avalanche danger

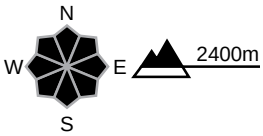
updated on 16.5.2023, 17:00



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

New snow

Avalanche prone locations

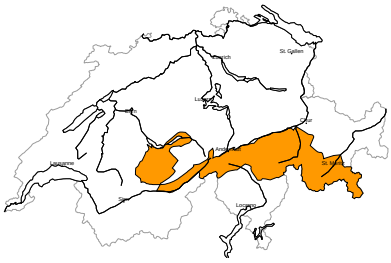


Danger description

During the night as a consequence of new snow and strong wind there will be a significant increase in the avalanche danger. The fresh snow and the sometimes large wind slabs are prone to triggering. During the night natural avalanches are to be expected.
Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. Caution and restraint are required.

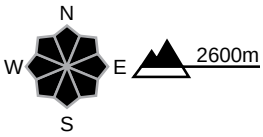
Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 considerable 4 high 5 very high

region B — Considerable, Level 3=



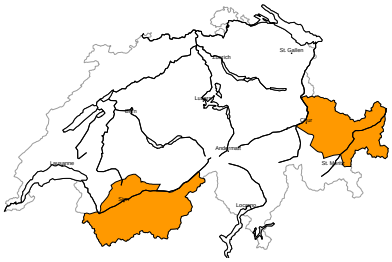
New snow

Avalanche prone locations



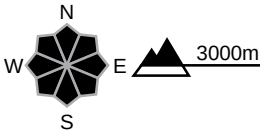
Danger description
During the night as a consequence of new snow and strong wind there will be an increase in the avalanche danger. The fresh snow and in particular the wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases at elevated altitudes. Avalanches can in many cases reach medium size.
Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region C — Considerable, Level 3-



Snow drift

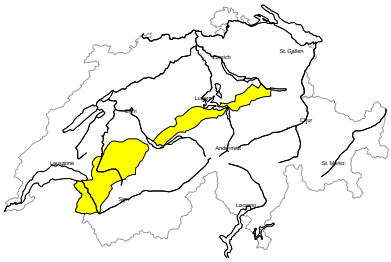
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
The northeasterly wind will transport the new snow and, in some cases, old snow as well. The fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in steep terrain. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

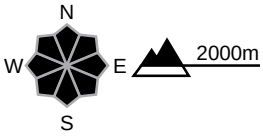
The Avalanche Warning Service currently has only a small amount of information that has been collected in the field, so that the avalanche danger should be investigated especially thoroughly in the relevant locality.

region D — Moderate, Level 2+



Snow drift, New snow

Avalanche prone locations

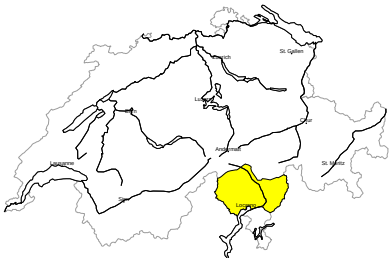


Danger description
During the night as a consequence of new snow and strong wind there will be an increase in the avalanche danger. The fresh snow and in particular the wind slabs can be released in some cases. Avalanches can reach medium size in isolated cases. Careful route selection is advisable.
The Avalanche Warning Service currently has only a small amount of information that has been collected in the field, so that the avalanche danger should be investigated especially thoroughly in the relevant locality.

Avalanche bulletin through Wednesday, 17. May 2023

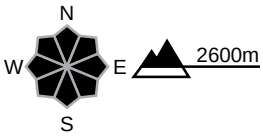
region E

Moderate, Level 2=



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong to storm force northeasterly wind, wind slabs will form. These can in some places be released by people. Avalanches can reach medium size. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Careful route selection is recommended.
The Avalanche Warning Service currently has only a small amount of information that has been collected in the field, so that the avalanche danger should be investigated especially thoroughly in the relevant locality.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.5.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

On each of the recent days snow has fallen at elevated altitudes, so that a fairly large quantity of fresh snow is now lying in the high Alpine regions. Intense snowfall and strong wind in the north and northeast will give rise to large snow drift accumulations on Tuesday night.
Underneath the fresh snow of recent days the old snowpack is thoroughly wet below approximately 2700 m on north facing slopes, and up to more than 3000 m in the other aspects. In particular in Grisons and partly in southern Valais, as well as in the other regions is isolated cases, weak layers still exist deep in the old snowpack. Avalanches released in the fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can penetrate these weak layers in some cases.

Observed weather review Tuesday, 16.05.2023

There were bright spells in the south and in southern Upper Valais, but otherwise it was very cloudy. There was occasional precipitation, which fell as snow above approximately 2000 m.

Fresh snow
Between Monday afternoon and Tuesday afternoon the following amounts of snow fell above 2400 m:
- Northern Alpine ridge: 5 to 15 cm, but up to 30 cm from the Hasli valleys to the Titlis
- Elsewhere: less than 10 cm, but remaining dry in the south

Temperature
In the middle of the day the zero degree level was between 2100 m in the north and 2500 m in the south

Wind
Mostly moderate, in the central and eastern regions of the Alps during the day at elevated altitudes sometimes strong, from the north

Weather forecast through Wednesday, 17.05.2023

Tuesday night will be cloudy with intense precipitation in the north and partly in Grisons as well. The snowfall level will drop from 1900 to approximately 1200 m. During the day a little further precipitation will fall in the east and there will be bright spells in the west.

Fresh snow
Between Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon above 2400 m:
- Northern Alpine ridge from the Jungfrau region into Liechtenstein: 30 to 50 cm, more in some localities in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps
- Northern Alpine ridge from the Wildhorn into Lötschental, rest of central Grisons: 20 to 30 cm
- Elsewhere: mostly less than 20 cm, dry in the far south

Temperature
In the middle of the day the zero degree level will be between 1800 m in the north and 2400 m in the south

Wind
There will be a northeasterly wind:
- During the night in the central and eastern parts of the main Alpine ridge, storm force
- Otherwise moderate to strong

Avalanche bulletin through Wednesday, 17. May 2023

Outlook through Friday, 19.05.2023

On each of the following days it will be cloudy with sometimes prolonged bright spells. There will be some isolated precipitation, mostly on Friday on the main Alpine ridge in Upper Valais, where approximately 10 to 20 cm could fall. The zero degree level will be approximately 2600 m. The wind will be light on Thursday and moderate on Friday, from the southeast.
The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. On Friday it may increase slightly again on the main Alpine ridge in Upper Valais. Solar radiation is expected to trigger a large number of moist avalanches in the fresh snow that will fall on Wednesday. In the regions exposed to heavier precipitation, these may reach quite a large size.

Thursday