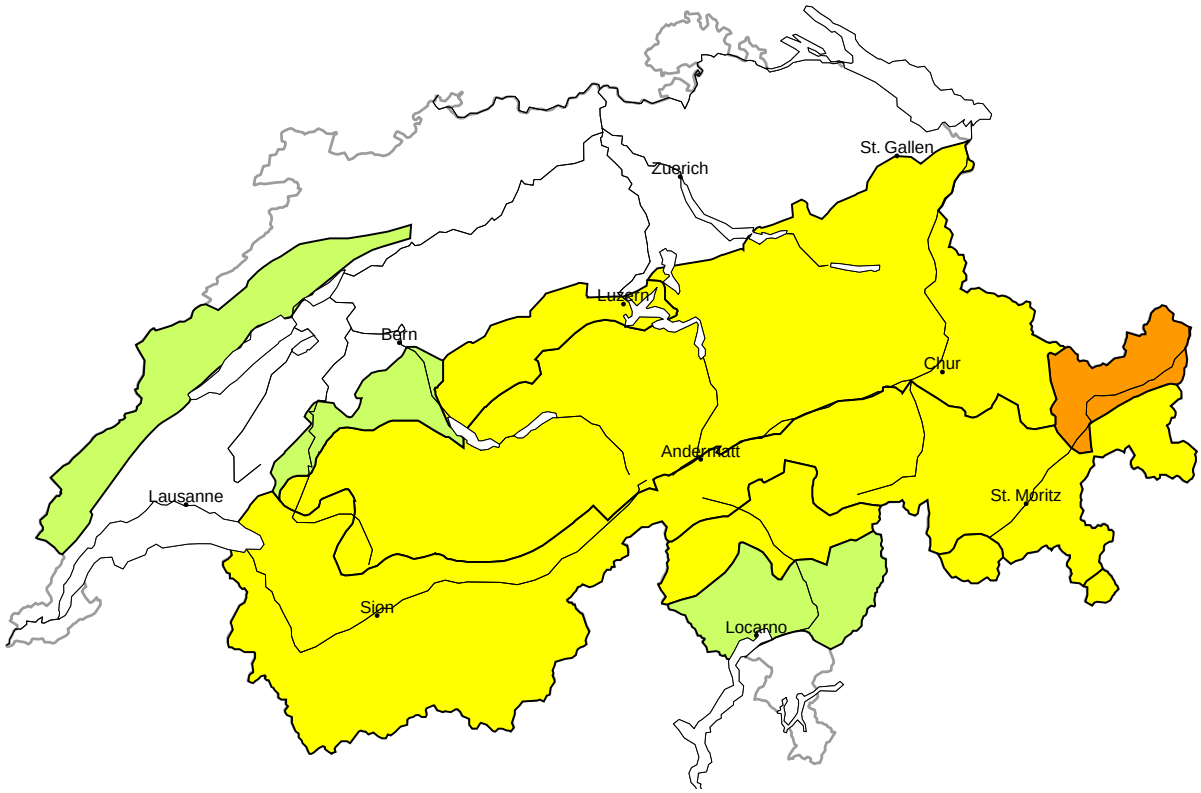
Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 25. December 2023

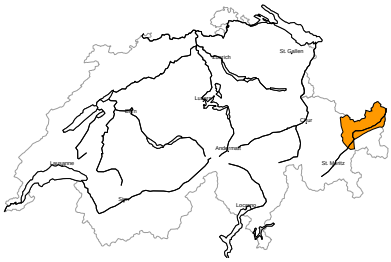
Avalanche danger

updated on 25.12.2023, 08:00



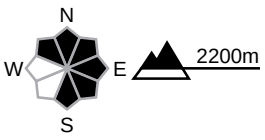
region A

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



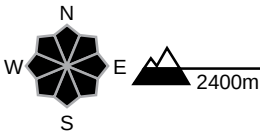
Danger description

The extensive wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

On very steep grassy slopes more frequent gliding avalanches are possible, even large ones. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on south facing slopes below approximately 2400 m and on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.
In addition individual wet snow slides are possible.

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

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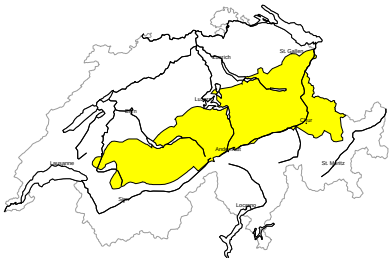
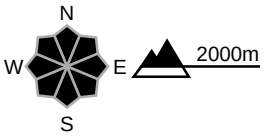
region B

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



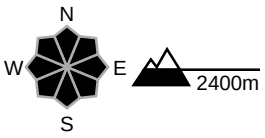
Danger description

As a consequence of a strong to storm force northwesterly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed. Persons can release avalanches in some places. They can reach large size in isolated cases in particular in places that are protected from the wind. Meticulous route selection is required.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

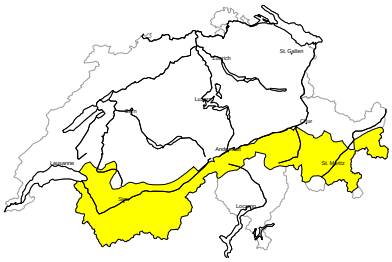


Danger description

On very steep grassy slopes more frequent gliding avalanches are possible, even large ones. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on south facing slopes below approximately 2400 m and on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.
In addition individual wet snow slides are possible.

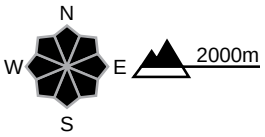
region C

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



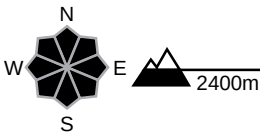
Danger description

As a consequence of a strong to storm force northwesterly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed. Persons can release avalanches in some places. They can reach large size in isolated cases in particular in places that are protected from the wind. Meticulous route selection is required.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

On very steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible, even large ones. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on south facing slopes below approximately 2400 m and on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

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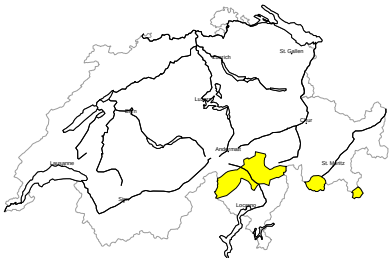
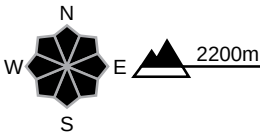
region D — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

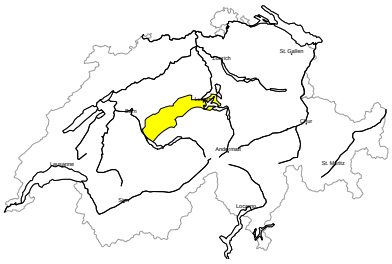
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

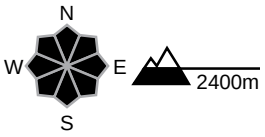
The wind slabs of last week are in some cases still prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. In very isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size.
Careful route selection is advisable.

region E — Moderate (2)



Wet snow, Gliding snow

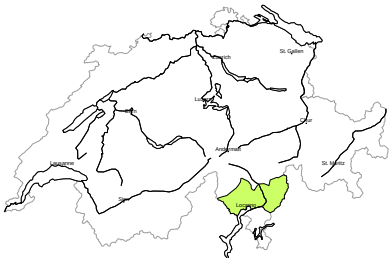
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

On very steep grassy slopes more frequent gliding avalanches are possible, even large ones. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on south facing slopes below approximately 2400 m and on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.
In addition individual wet snow slides are possible.

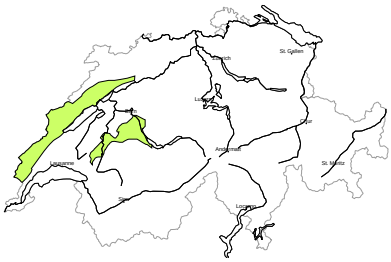
region F — Low (1)



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.

region G — Low (1)



Wet snow

On very steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.
 In addition individual wet snow slides are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 24.12.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

The snowpack is characterised by stormy weather, with peaks, ridgelines and crests often blown off and large, sometimes quite compact snowdrift accumulations at a distance from ridgelines. The new snow and snowdrift from the past week is becoming increasingly settled and compacted. Avalanche fractures are still possible within the newer snowdrift layers. On wind-protected slopes, new snow and snowdrift are lying on a loose, angular old snowpack surface. There, avalanches may also start at the transition to the old snowpack and may be extensive.With the rain falling on Sunday evening up to around 2600 m and with the rise in temperature and incoming radiation during the day, moist snowslides from the new fallen snow and, increasingly, gliding avalanches are expected. In addition to the avalanche danger, you should also be aware of the risk of slipping on exposed steep terrain in the north when the surface of the snowpack is icy.

Weather review for Sunday, 24.12.2023

Saturday night was initially partly cloudy in the east; otherwise it was mostly clear. During the day, it was quite sunny and mild, with patches of cloud in the east. In the afternoon, clouds moved in from the north and light precipitation set in locally. The snowfall level rose from 1500 to around 1800 m.

New fallen snow
-

Temperature
The temperature rose. At midday at 2000 m, between +4 °C in the west, +2 °C in the east and +6 °C in the south.

Wind
In the Jura and the Prealps, there was wind from the southwest, otherwise the wind blew from the west to northwest. The winds were still strong to stormy during Saturday night, subsiding somewhat during the day.

Weather forecast until Monday, 25.12.2023

Sunday night will be mostly cloudy in the north and east, but mostly clear in southern Valais and on the central part of the southern flank of the Alps. Some precipitation will fall in the north and east from Sunday evening until the first half of the night, with the snowfall level rising rapidly from 1800 m to 2600 m on Sunday evening. During the second half of the night it will clear from the west and during the day it will be mostly sunny and very mild.

New fallen snow
The following amounts of fresh snow are expected above approximately 2800 m:
- Northern Alpine Ridge from the Wildstrubel to the Ringelspitz, northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine: 5 to 10 cm, locally up to 15 cm;
- otherwise it will remain dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, +6 °C, zero-degree level at 3200 m.

Wind
There will still be a moderate to strong wind on Sunday night in the north and in the high Alpine regions, with a mostly moderate wind during the day and a weak westerly wind in the south and central Grisons.

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Trend until Wednesday, 27.12.2023

Both days will be mostly sunny and mild with patches of cloud. On Tuesday, the zero-degree level will lie at 2600 m in the north and 3000 m in the south. On Wednesday, it will rise widely to 3200 m. The westerly wind will be moderate to strong on Tuesday and weak to moderate on Wednesday.The danger of dry avalanches will continue to decrease. Gliding avalanches are still expected, even large ones in regions with a lot of snow.