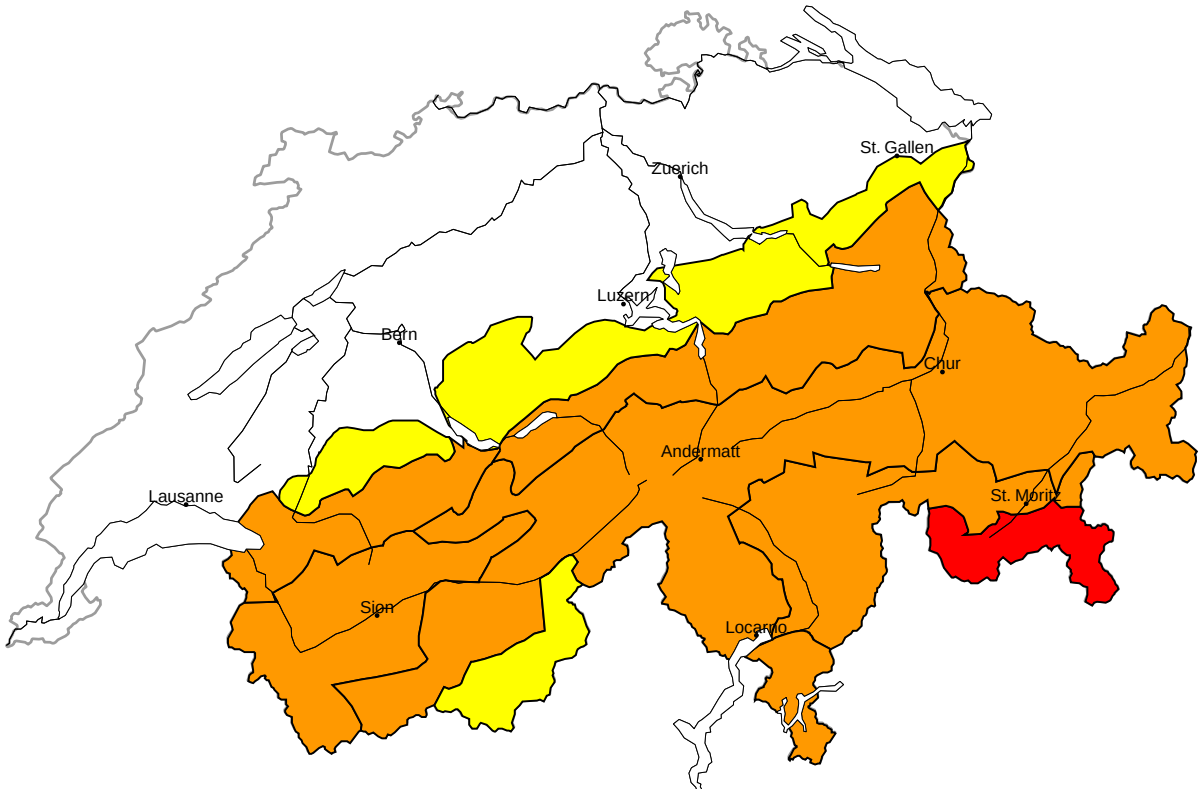
Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 23. February 2024

Avalanche danger

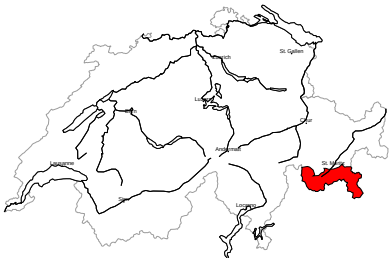
updated on 23.2.2024, 08:00



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

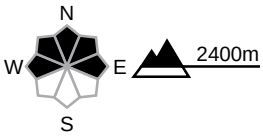
region A

High (4-)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



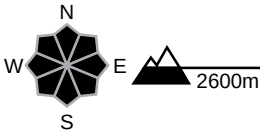
Danger description

The large quantity of fresh snow and the deep wind slabs represent the main danger. With the end of the intense snowfall, the natural avalanche activity will gradually decrease. More natural avalanches are to be expected, even large ones. The danger exists primarily in alpine snow sports terrain. Avalanches capable of reaching valley bottoms and endangering exposed transportation routes are unlikely to occur.
Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size.
The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are critical.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

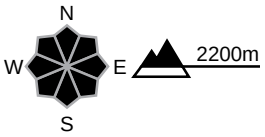
More gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region B

Considerable (3+)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations

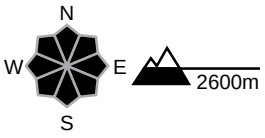


Danger description
The large quantity of fresh snow and the sometimes large wind slabs represent the main danger. Natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

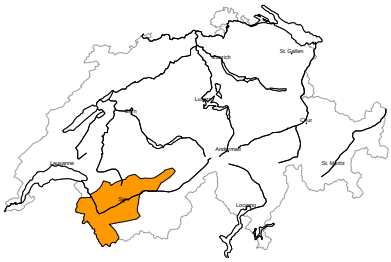
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
More gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

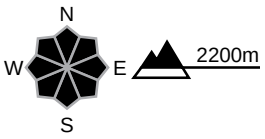
region C

Considerable (3+)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations

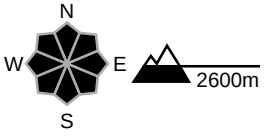


Danger description
The large quantity of fresh snow and the sometimes large wind slabs represent the main danger. Natural dry avalanches are possible. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. In addition as the day progresses numerous small and medium-sized loose snow avalanches are to be expected.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
More gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

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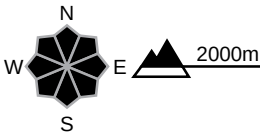
region D

Considerable (3=)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations

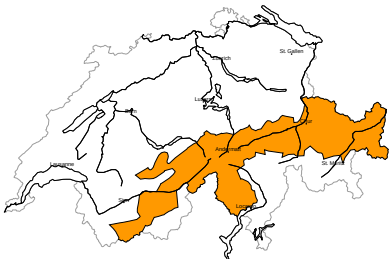


Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

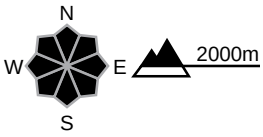
region E

Considerable (3=)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



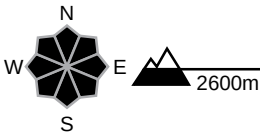
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

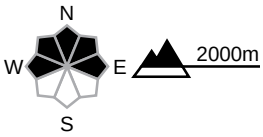
More gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region F

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering. They will be covered with new snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.
The wind slabs must be evaluated with care and prudence. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

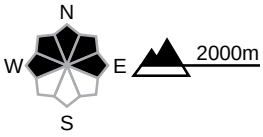
Gliding avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region G

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



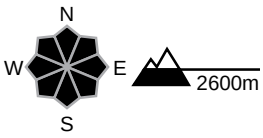
Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering. They will be covered with new snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.
The wind slabs must be evaluated with care and prudence. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

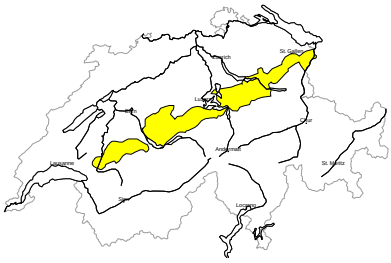


Danger description

More gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

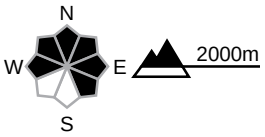
region H

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
The fresh and older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can in some places be released easily. They can reach medium size in isolated cases. Careful route selection is recommended.

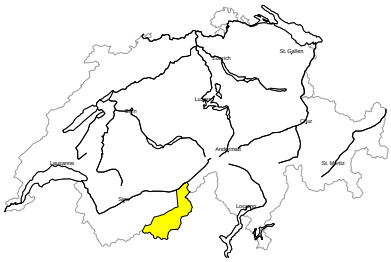
Low (1)

Gliding snow

Gliding avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

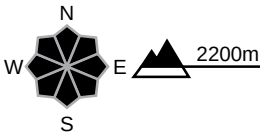
region I

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

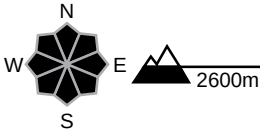


Danger description
The fresh and older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can in some places be released easily. They can reach medium size in isolated cases. Careful route selection is recommended.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
More gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 22.2.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

The abundant new snow and wind slabs in the west and south are prone to triggering. In the north, a strong to storm-force southwesterly wind has led to large-scale drifting of the loose snow of the last few days. The wind slabs will be covered with new snow during Thursday night into Friday. Hardly any fractures deeper in the snowpack are to be expected.
Small and medium-sized loose snow avalanches are to be anticipated in the west as a result of solar radiation and milder temperatures during the day.
Gliding avalanches are still possible, primarily on east-, south- and west-facing slopes below approximately 2600 m and more rarely on north-facing slopes below approximately 2200 m. These may be large.

Weather review for Thursday, 22.02.2024

It was mostly cloudy and there was widespread precipitation. The snowfall level rose rapidly from 1500 m to 2000 m in the north during the night; it was around 1500 m in the south.

New snow
From Wednesday afternoon to Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were recorded above approximately 2400 m:
- extreme west of Lower Valais and northern Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm;
- western part of the northern flank of the Alps, Gotthard region: 5 to 10 cm; elsewhere: less or it remained dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +3 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south.

Wind
- There were moderate to strong winds during the night and strong to storm-force winds during the day, blowing from the southwest.
- A moderate to strong foehn wind blew in the Alpine valleys of the north.

Weather forecast until Friday, 23.02.2024

There will be widespread precipitation during the night, with the most falling in the west and south. During the day it will only continue to snow in the east; it will be fairly sunny elsewhere. The snowfall level will drop rapidly from around 1800 m to low altitudes on Thursday evening.

New snow
From Thursday midday to Friday midday, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected above 2200 m:
- Main Alpine Ridge from the Rheinwaldhorn to Val Poschiavo and to the south of this: 40 to 60 cm;
- extreme west of Lower Valais and northern Lower Valais: 20 to 40 cm;
- rest of the Northern Alpine Ridge, the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, rest of Lower Valais, rest of Ticino, rest of Grisons: 15 to 30 cm;
- elsewhere: 5 to 15 cm.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -6 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south.

Wind
There will be a southwesterly wind:
- this will be strong to storm force during the night;
- it will be mostly weak to moderate during the day.

Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 23. February 2024

Trend

Saturday, 24.02.2024
Some snow will fall in the west during Friday night into Saturday and then in the south on Saturday afternoon. The snowfall level will remain at low altitudes. During the day it will be sunny at times in the north and cloudy in the south. There will be an increasingly strong southwesterly wind.
The danger of dry avalanches will decrease only gradually. The danger of gliding avalanches will not change significantly.

Sunday, 25.02.2024
In the south, 15 to 30 cm of snow will fall down to low altitudes. It remains unclear how much new snow there will be. It will be sunny at times in the north. There will be an increasingly strong to storm-force southwesterly wind.
The danger of dry avalanches will increase in the south due to new snow. In the north, the avalanche danger will not change significantly.