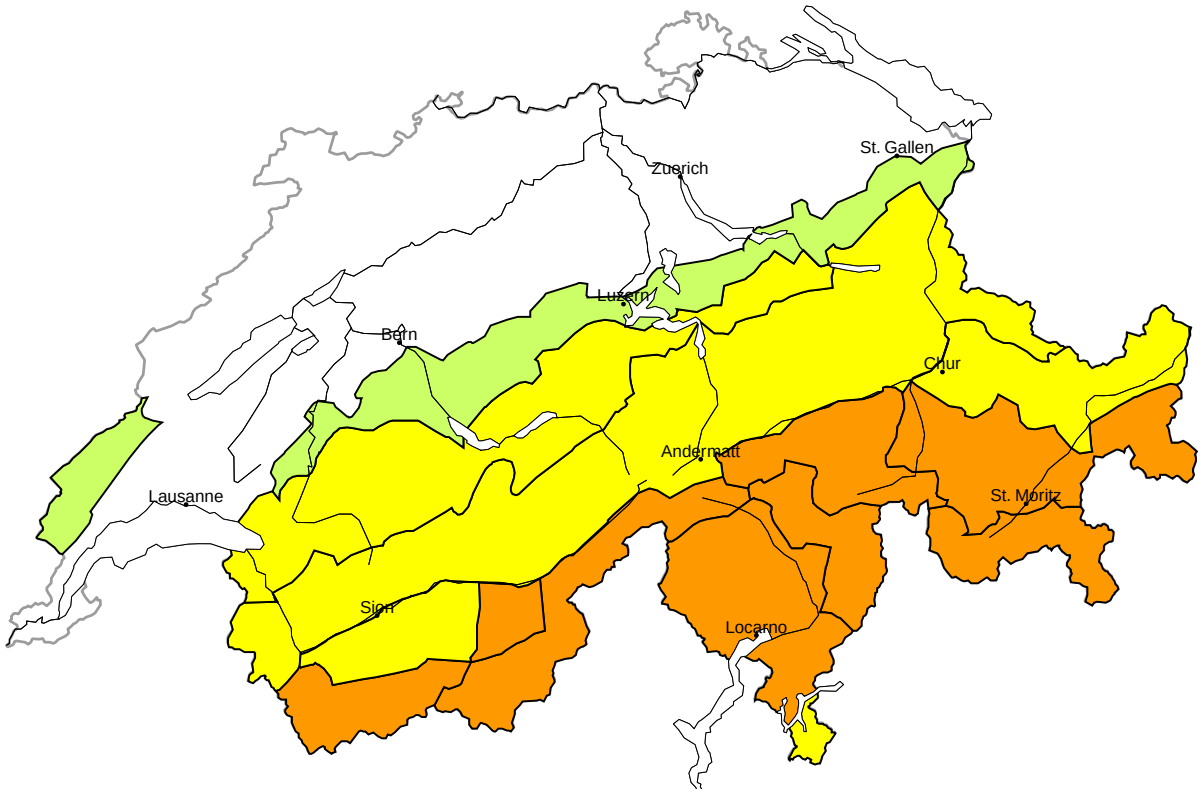
Avalanche bulletin for Monday, 17. March 2025

Avalanche danger

updated on 17.3.2025, 08:00

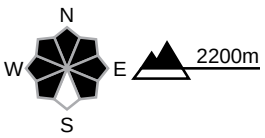


region A

Considerable (3=)

New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Avalanches can also penetrate deep layers.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation a large number of moist loose snow avalanches are to be expected, even large ones in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep sunny slopes, as well as in all aspects below approximately 2000 m. In addition small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible.

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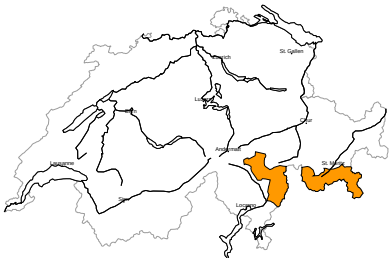
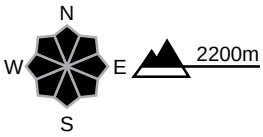
region B

Considerable (3=)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Avalanches can in some cases penetrate deep layers. Such avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow and at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. As a consequence of a moderate to strong northerly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form in the course of the day.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow

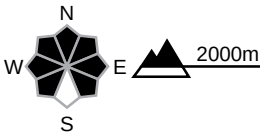
As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation a large number of moist loose snow avalanches are to be expected, even large ones in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep sunny slopes, as well as in all aspects below approximately 2000 m. In addition small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible.

region C

Considerable (3=)

New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

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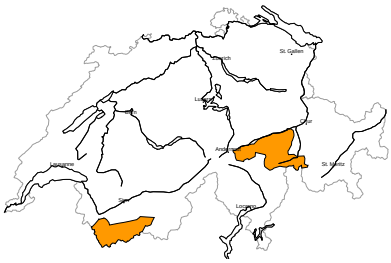
Moderate (2)

Wet snow

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation a large number of moist loose snow avalanches are to be expected, even large ones in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep sunny slopes, as well as in all aspects below approximately 2000 m. In addition small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible.

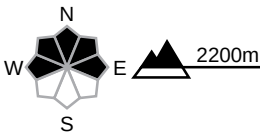
region D

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. In isolated cases avalanches can also penetrate deep layers and reach large size. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation a large number of moist loose snow avalanches are to be expected, even large ones in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep sunny slopes, as well as in all aspects below approximately 2000 m. In addition small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible.

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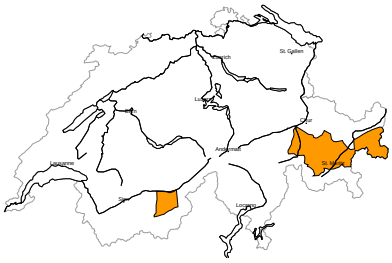
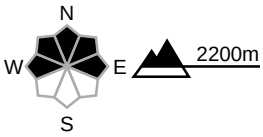
region E

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. In isolated cases avalanches can also penetrate deep layers and reach large size. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Low (1)

Wet snow

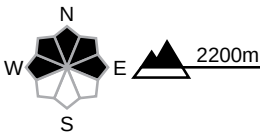
As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation loose snow avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small. In addition individual gliding avalanches are possible.

region F

Moderate (2+)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with new snow difficult to recognise. In isolated cases avalanches can also penetrate deep layers. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Low (1)

Wet snow

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation loose snow avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small. In addition individual gliding avalanches are possible.

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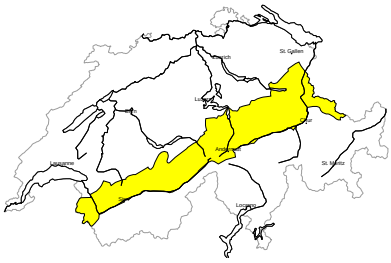
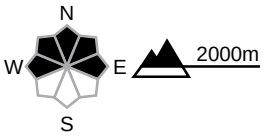
region G

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with new snow and are therefore difficult to recognise.
Avalanches can reach medium size.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

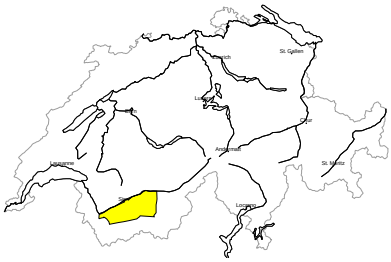
Low (1)

Wet snow

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation loose snow avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small. In addition individual gliding avalanches are possible.

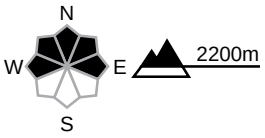
region H

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days can be released in some cases. They are covered with new snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. In isolated cases avalanches can also penetrate deep layers.
Avalanches can reach medium size.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Low (1)

Wet snow

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation loose snow avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small. In addition individual gliding avalanches are possible.

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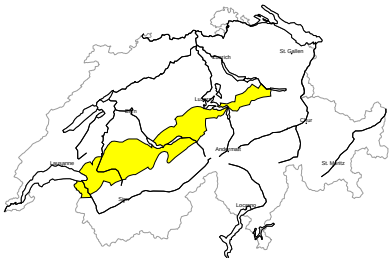
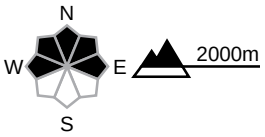
region I

Moderate (2-)



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant in some cases. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with new snow and are therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can in some cases reach medium size. Careful route selection is recommended.

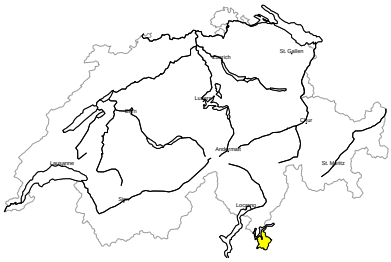
Low (1)

Wet snow

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation loose snow avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small. In addition individual gliding avalanches are possible.

region J

Moderate (2)

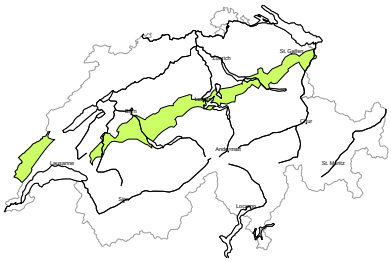


Wet snow

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation a large number of moist loose snow avalanches are to be expected, even medium-sized ones. In addition small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible.

region K

Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches 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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.3.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

On the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, the large amount of new fallen snow from the past week is gradually settling and consolidating. However, the upper layers of the new snow and wind slabs are sometimes prone to triggering. In the other regions, new snow and wind slabs are particularly prone to triggering on shady slopes where they lie on an unfavourable old snow surface consisting of soft, faceted layers. These layers of new snow and wind slabs are thickest along the Main Alpine Ridge.
In Valais, Ticino and Grisons, deeper layers of the snowpack are loose and faceted. Avalanches can sometimes be triggered into these deep layers of the snowpack, especially on shady slopes.
As a consequence of solar radiation, loose snow avalanches and gliding avalanches are to be expected in regions with a lot of new snow, especially on sunny slopes. These may occasionally become large in the south. Individual gliding avalanches are also possible in the north.

Weather review for Sunday

It was mostly very cloudy, with isolated bright spells in Valais. In the north and west, a little snow fell above approximately 1000 m. In the south, it snowed more intensively above approximately 1400 m.

Fresh snow
Within two days from Friday to Sunday afternoon above approximately 1800 m:
- Great St. Bernard, Upper Visp valleys, Simplon region, southern Goms, western Ticino, Val Bregaglia: 30 to 50 cm.
- Western Jura, other regions along the Main Alpine Ridge and to the south of it: 15 to 30 cm.
- Immediately north of the Main Alpine Ridge: 5 to 15 cm.
- Elsewhere: a few centimetres.

As a result, around 120 cm of new snow has fallen on the southern flank of the Alps in the last 7 days, and even more in some localities.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -5 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south.

Wind
- Light to moderate southeasterly winds during the night.
- During the day, winds were mostly light and blew from various directions.

Weather forecast to Monday

In the west and south, it will be sunny in the mountains. In the north and east, a few centimetres of snow will fall above 800 m during the night; as the day progresses, it will become increasingly sunny.

Fresh snow
From Sunday afternoon to Monday morning on the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons: a few centimetres.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in the west, -1 °C in the south and -6 °C in the east

Wind
- Light to moderate northeasterly winds.
- Moderate to strong Bise winds in the Jura and the Prealps as the day progresses.

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Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday

It will be sunny in the north on both days. In the south, a little snow will fall down to low altitudes on Tuesday. As the day progresses, there will be bright spells. On Wednesday, it will also be sunny in the south. The wind will be mostly light on both days. The danger of dry avalanches will continue to decrease. Moist loose snow avalanches and individual gliding avalanches are possible, especially as the day progresses.

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