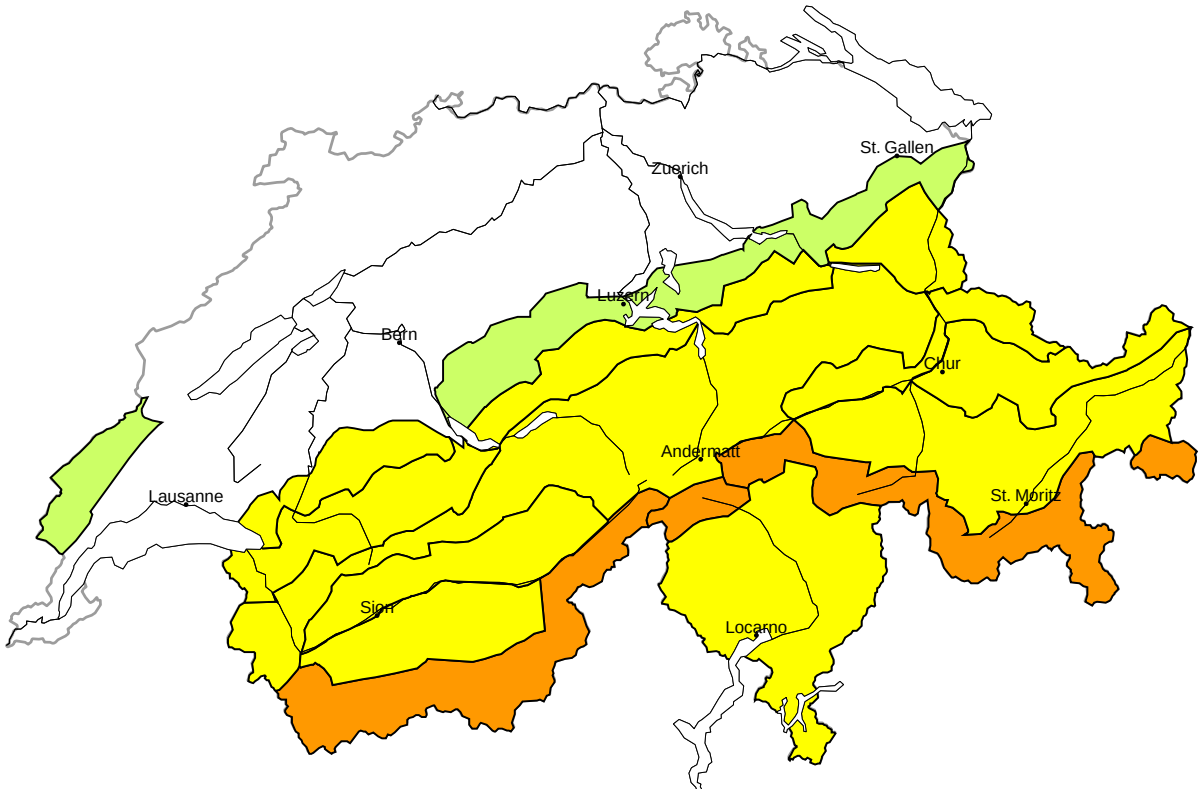
Avalanche bulletin for Saturday, 22. March 2025

Avalanche danger

updated on 22.3.2025, 08:00

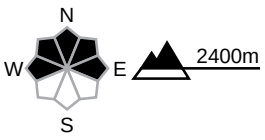


region A

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong southerly wind, further wind slabs formed. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in deeper layers also. They can reach large size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

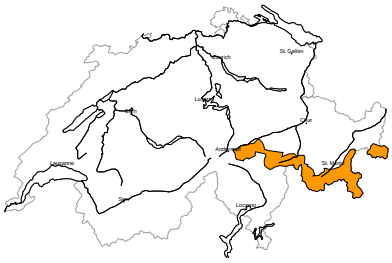
Wet snow, Gliding snow

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night was reduced. In particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

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

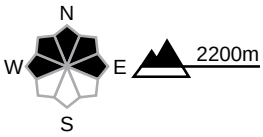
region B

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong southerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches in some places. They can penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

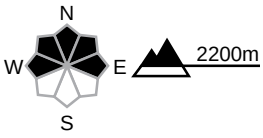
Outgoing longwave radiation during the night was reduced. In particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

region C

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong southerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches in some places. They can penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Low (1)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

As a consequence of the precipitation more small and medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible.

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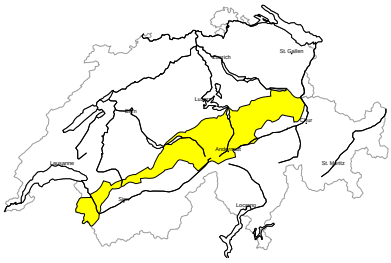
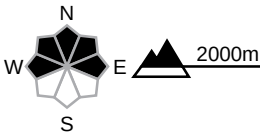
region D



Moderate (2+)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong southerly foehn wind, further wind slabs formed in particular in gullies and bowls and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. They can be released easily. Avalanches can reach medium size.
The fresh wind slabs are to be bypassed in steep terrain.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

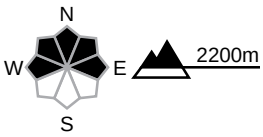
Outgoing longwave radiation during the night was reduced. In particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

region E

Moderate (2+)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a moderate to strong southerly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs formed. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Avalanches can additionally in some places be released in deeper layers also. They can reach large size in isolated cases.
Defensive route selection is recommended.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night was reduced. In particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

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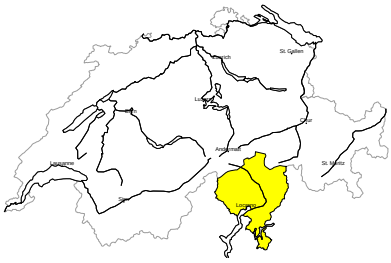
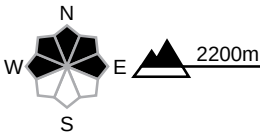
region F

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches in some places. They can penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach large size. Defensive route selection is recommended.

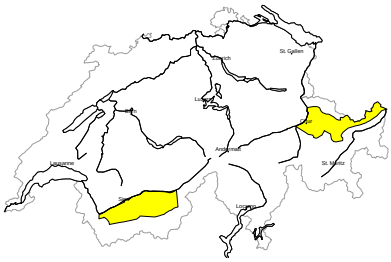
Low (1)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

As a consequence of the precipitation more small and medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible.

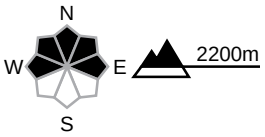
region G

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh wind slabs are rather small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain.
Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be released in deep layers and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on extremely steep, little used shady slopes.
Careful route selection is recommended.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night was reduced. In particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

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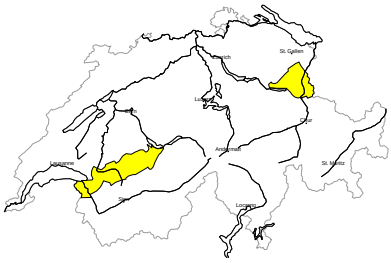
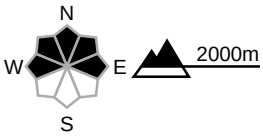
region H

Moderate (2-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh wind slabs are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain.
Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

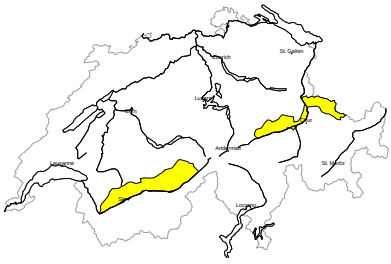
Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night was reduced. In particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

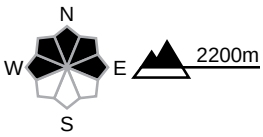
region I

Moderate (2-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh wind slabs are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain.
Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night was reduced. In particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

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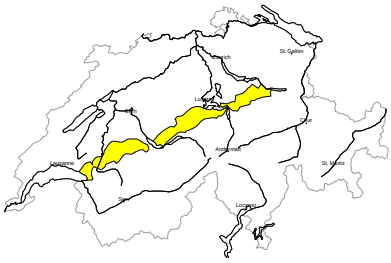
region J

Moderate (2)



Wet snow, Gliding snow

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night was reduced. In particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

Low (1)

Wind slab

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 K

Low (1)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night was reduced. In particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes small to medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.3.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

On the Main Alpine Ridge and north of it, the strong southerly wind transports the loose snow on the shady slopes and forms snowdrift accumulations that are easily triggered. On the northern flank of the Alps, the snowpack structure is otherwise quite favourable. In southern Valais, Ticino and Grisons, there are weak layers prone to triggering in the central part of the snowpack. Especially along the central and eastern parts of the Main Alpine Ridge and south of it, avalanches can also be triggered on shady slopes in near-ground layers of the snowpack.
On steep south-facing slopes, the snowpack is soaked up to the high Alpine regions, and on west-facing slopes below 2000 m. On east-facing slopes, the soaking is not yet so advanced and the snowpack is still mostly dry on north-facing slopes. Outgoing longwave radiation during the night is reduced by clouds and Saharan dust in the air. Only a thin melt-freeze crust forms, which softens rapidly in the late morning as a consequence of solar radiation.

Weather review for Friday

The night was only partly clear. During the day, the sky was obscured by sometimes dense, high clouds and Saharan dust.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
It was very mild: in the middle of the day at 2000 m, the temperature was between +9 °C in the north and 0 °C in the south.

Wind
- Moderate southwesterly wind during the night
- Increasingly strong southerly winds in the north during the day and increasingly strong foehn winds in the Alpine valleys

Weather forecast to Saturday

Precipitation will fall in the south. The snowfall level will be between 1600 and 2000 m. It will often be cloudy in the north during the night, but during the day it will be quite sunny despite moving high cloud cover and Saharan dust.

Fresh snow
From Friday evening to Saturday afternoon above 2200 m:
- Central part of the southern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm.
- Directly neighbouring to the north, Main Alpine Ridge in Upper Valais, Val Bregaglia, Bernina region: 10 to 20 cm.
- Rest of Main Alpine Ridge: less, otherwise dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +4 °C in the north and 0 °C in the south.

Wind
- In the north and generally at high altitudes, strong southwesterly winds that are sometimes stormy during the night,
- Strong to storm-force foehn winds in the Alpine valleys of the north.

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Outlook

Sunday
Precipitation will fall in the south, especially during the night, above 1400 to 1600 m as snow. Between 15 and 30 cm of new snow is expected. During the day it will be generally dry, but mostly cloudy. In the north, it will be partly sunny with passing showers. There will be a sometimes moderate southerly wind at high altitudes and a moderate foehn wind in the Alpine valleys of the north.
The danger of dry avalanches will increase in the south and will decrease somewhat in the north. The danger of wet avalanches will increase a little as the day progresses.

Monday
There will be little precipitation during the night, especially in the south, with showers in the north during the day. The snowfall level will be between 1400 and 1600 m. There will also be extended bright spells during the day, especially in inneralpine regions.
The danger of dry avalanches will decrease slowly in the south, but will not change significantly in the north. The danger of wet avalanches will increase a little as the day progresses.