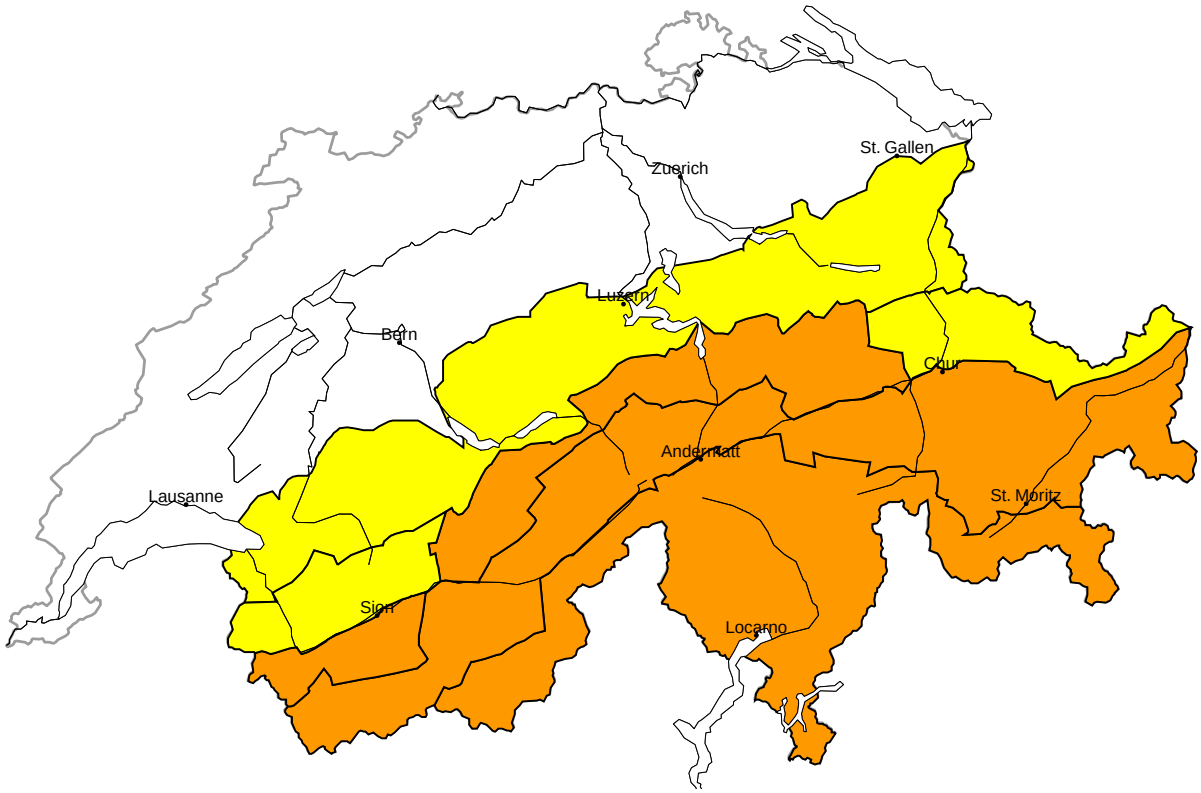
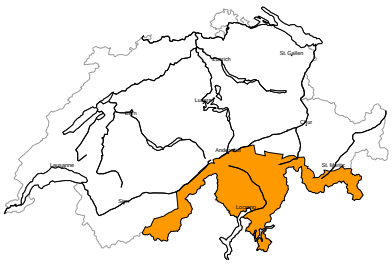
Avalanche danger

updated on 11.3.2024, 17:00



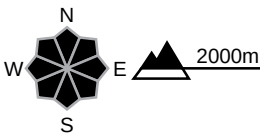
region A

Considerable (3=)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



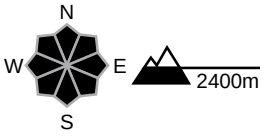
Danger description

The large quantity of fresh snow of the weekend and the extensive wind slabs formed by the storm force southerly wind are in some cases still prone to triggering. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow, and at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. The avalanches can in many cases reach large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

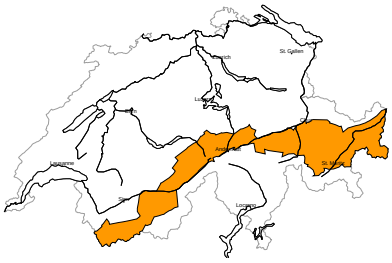


Danger description

In particular on very steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

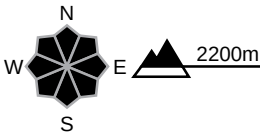
region B

Considerable (3=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



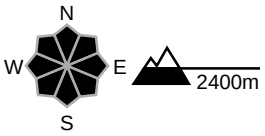
Danger description

The fresh snow of the weekend and the wind slabs formed by the storm force southerly wind are in some cases still prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. Avalanches can reach large size in isolated cases.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

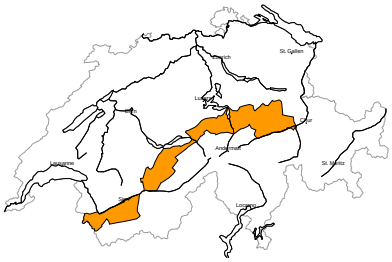


Danger description

In particular on very steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

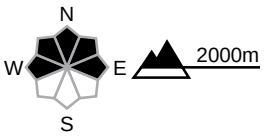
region C

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



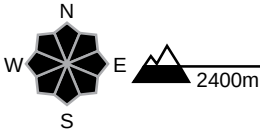
Danger description

The hard wind slabs of the weekend are covered with new snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. They can especially at their margins be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach medium size.
The wind slabs are to be avoided in steep terrain.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

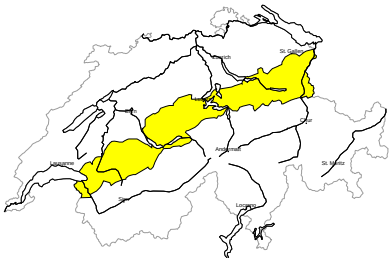
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In particular on very steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

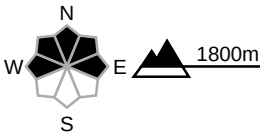
region D



Moderate (2+)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



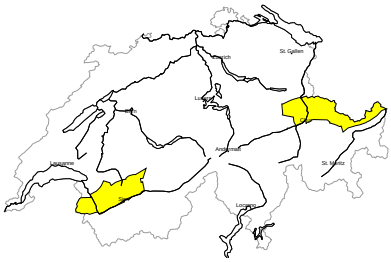
Danger description
As a consequence of a storm force foehn wind, hard wind slabs formed in the last few days. These are mostly shallow but in some cases prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

In particular on very steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach medium size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

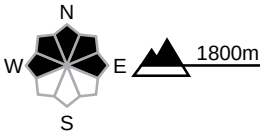
region E



Moderate (2+)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
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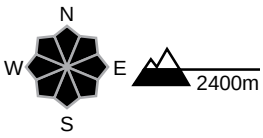
Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
In particular on very steep grassy slopes 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 11.3.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

Deep layers of the snowpack are compact in many places. However, around the crusts in the upper third of the old snowpack, weak layers with a sometimes faceted crystal structure are deposited.
A lot of fresh snow fell on and to the south of the Main Alpine Ridge at the weekend. The southerly winds led to the formation of extensive wind slabs at high altitudes. Many naturally triggered avalanches, some of them very large, occurred on Sunday, particularly in southern Upper Valais.
In the north, the loose snow of the past week was heavily transported to below the tree line by the storm-force Bise wind. The snowdrift was widely deposited on loose snow on north-facing slopes, locally also on surface hoar. As a result, the recent wind slabs were often prone to triggering and many were released by people. The wind slabs are now covered with new snow in many places, making them difficult to recognise.
Gliding avalanches are still possible, primarily on east-, south- and west-facing slopes below approximately 2400 m and more rarely on north-facing slopes. These may be large.

Weather review for Monday, 11.03.2024

A three-day period of storm-force southerly winds and a lot of new fallen snow in the south ended during the night. It was quite sunny in the early morning, turning increasingly cloudy from the northwest in the afternoon as the first showers arrived.

New snow
Since Friday, the following amounts of snow have fallen above approximately 1600 m, most of it on Sunday:
- Simplon region, Bedretto, Valle Maggia: 70 to 100 cm;
- other regions of the Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn to the San Bernardino Pass and south of this, Val Bregaglia, Bernina: 40 to 70 cm;
- directly neighbouring regions to the north, Lower Valais Main Alpine Ridge, rest of Upper Engadine: mostly 20 to 40 cm;
- further north: less than 20 cm.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around -3 °C.

Wind
- There were moderate westerly winds during the night on the northern flank of the Alps, with moderate southerly winds elsewhere.
- During the day, there was a mostly weak northerly wind.

Weather forecast until Tuesday, 12.03.2024

It will be fairly sunny in the south, with winds tending to be from the north. Elsewhere, it will be very cloudy, with some snow falling above approximately 1300 m.

New snow
From Monday afternoon to Tuesday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected:
- north of a line between the Rhone and Rhine and in northern Grisons: 5 to 10 cm;
- less elsewhere; dry in the south.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in the north and -1 °C in the south.

Wind
- There will be a moderate westerly wind on the northern flank of the Alps.
- A moderate northerly wind will blow in the south.
- In the high Alpine regions, winds will be moderate from the northwest.

Avalanche bulletin through Tuesday, 12. March 2024

Trend until Thursday, 14.03.2024

Wednesday
In the north, it will snow during the night above approximately 1300 m. The quantities are still uncertain. During the day, it will be fairly sunny in the west, with clear spells in the north. It will be fairly sunny in the south, with winds tending to be from the north.
In the north, the danger of dry avalanches will increase somewhat. It will decrease in the south. Individual gliding avalanches will still be possible, some of which could be large.

Thursday
With light winds, it will be mostly sunny and increasingly mild as the day progresses.
The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. Individual gliding avalanches will still be possible, some of which could be large.