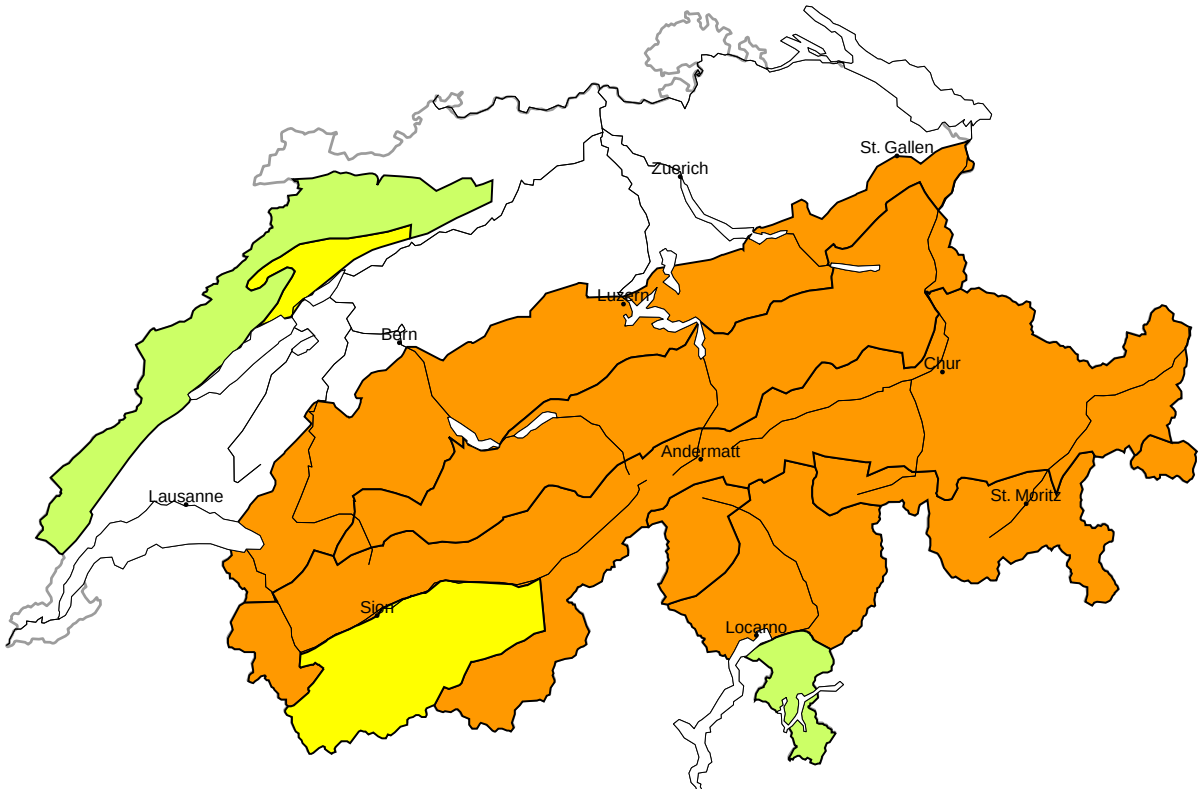
Avalanche bulletin through Sunday, 7. January 2024

Avalanche danger

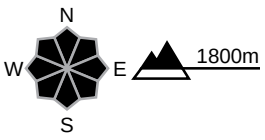
updated on 6.1.2024, 17:00



region A — Considerable (3=)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The strong wind will transport the new snow significantly. The sometimes large wind slabs are prone to triggering. Natural avalanches are possible in particular during the night. Avalanches can reach large size in isolated cases.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

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

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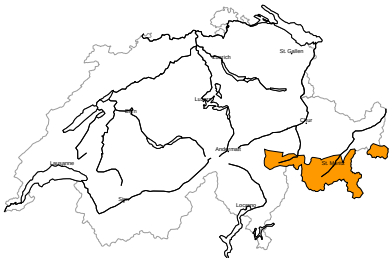
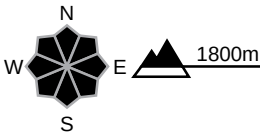
region B

Considerable (3=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The strong wind will transport the new snow significantly. The sometimes large wind slabs are prone to triggering. Natural avalanches are possible in particular during the night. Avalanches can reach large size in isolated cases.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

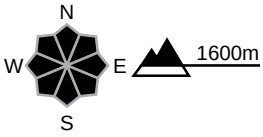
Between approximately 2000 and 2500 m individual gliding avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region C

Considerable (3=)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and the sometimes large wind slabs that are being formed by the moderate to strong bise wind are prone to triggering. Natural avalanches are possible. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Mostly these are medium-sized.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

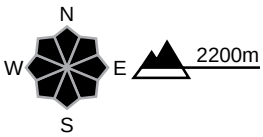
On steep grassy slopes individual gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach medium size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region D

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack in some places. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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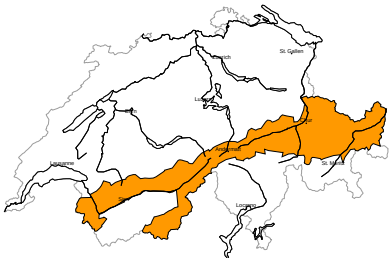
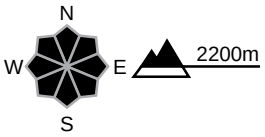
region E

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack in some places. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

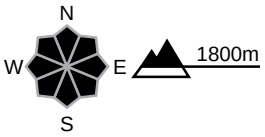
Between approximately 2000 and 2500 m individual gliding avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region F

Considerable (3-)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack in some places. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

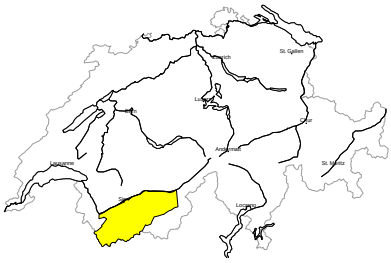
Low (1)

Gliding snow

Between approximately 2000 and 2500 m individual gliding avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

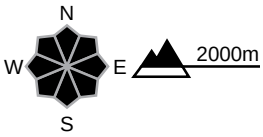
region G

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in some cases be released in near-surface layers. Fresh and older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

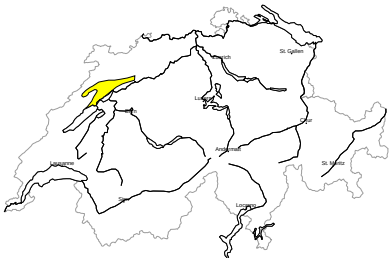
Low (1)

Gliding snow

Between approximately 2000 and 2500 m individual gliding avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

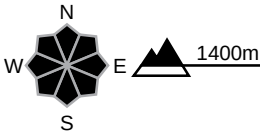
region H

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

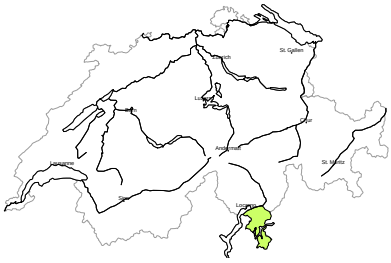


Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong bise wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches are rather small. 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.

region I

Low (1)



Wind slab

As a consequence of northerly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on very steep slopes. Mostly avalanches are small. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

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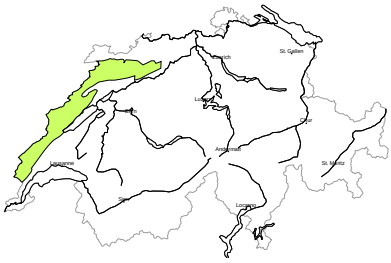
region J

Low (1)



Wind slab

As a consequence of new snow and a strong bise wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches are small. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 6.1.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

In near-surface layers, there are sometimes weak layers in which avalanches could be triggered. In addition, new snow, especially in the Prealps and the Jura, will be transported intensively by the sometimes strong Bise wind, forming snowdrift accumulations that are prone to triggering.
On the central part of the southern flank of the Alps and in southern Upper Engadine, the old snowpack structure has been partially transformed, especially in places with little snow, and fractures deeper in the snowpack are possible in isolated cases. In the other regions, the old snowpack structure is generally favourable. Hardly any fractures deeper in the snowpack are to be expected there.
Furthermore, some medium-sized and occasionally also large gliding avalanches are still possible, especially at altitudes between 2000 and 2500 m.

Weather review for Saturday, 06.01.2024

It was very cloudy and there was widespread precipitation, especially during the night. The snowfall level was between 600 and 1200 m.

New snow
Since Friday, the following amounts of fresh snow have been recorded above 1400 m:
- central part of the southern flank of the Alps, Main Alpine Ridge from the Lukmanier Pass to the Bernina Pass, Upper Engadine: 25 to 40 cm;
- Chablais, Vaud Alps and Fribourg Alps, southern Visp valleys, rest of the Gotthard region, rest of central Grisons: 15 to 25 cm;
- elsewhere: widespread 10 to 15 cm, less in the Jura.

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

Wind
There was a mostly weak to moderate wind, and an increasingly strong northerly wind on the central part of the southern flank of the Alps as the day progressed.

Weather forecast for Sunday, 07.01.2024

It will be very cloudy and there will be widespread snowfall down to low altitudes, mostly in the north. It will be dry on the central part of the southern flank of the Alps.

New snow
From Saturday afternoon to Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected above approximately 800 m:
- eastern Jura, northern flank of the Alps, excluding the Vaud Alps and Chablais: 15 to 25 cm, in the Prealps up to 30 cm;
- Chablais, Vaud Alps, extreme west of Lower Valais, rest of the Gotthard region, Grisons excluding Moesano: 10 to 20 cm;
- less elsewhere.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -8 °C in the north and -3 °C in the south.

Wind
- There will be moderate to strong Bise winds in the Prealps and Jura.
- There will be a strong northerly wind in the south.
- Elsewhere, the wind will be weak to moderate, with a moderate to strong northeasterly wind at high altitudes.

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Trend until Tuesday, 09.01.2024

Monday will be mostly cloudy with a little snow during the night. Strong Bise winds will continue to blow in the north. The temperature at 2000 m will be -8 °C in the north and -4 °C in the west and south. The avalanche danger will decrease slightly across the board.
Tuesday will be partly sunny in the north and cloudy with little precipitation in the south. In the north, the temperature at 2000 m will rise to -2 °C, while in the south it will drop to -6 °C . There will be a light wind. The avalanche danger will decrease.