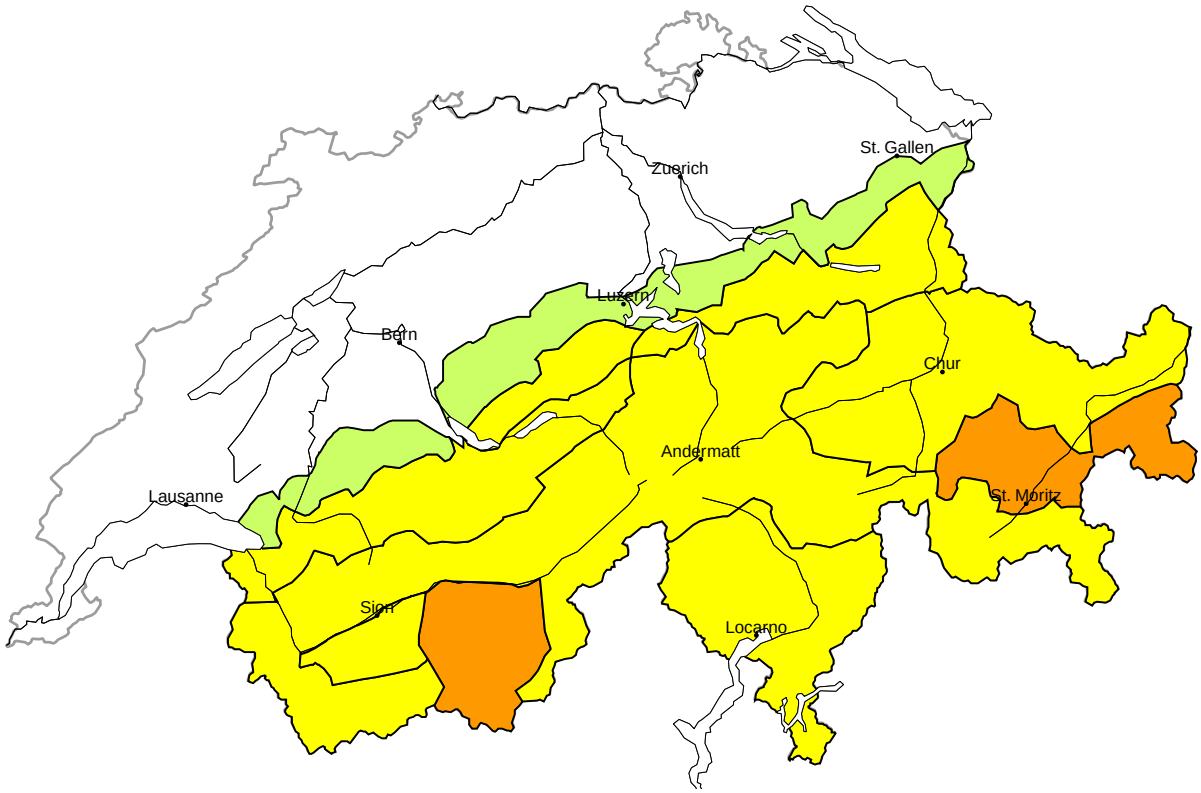
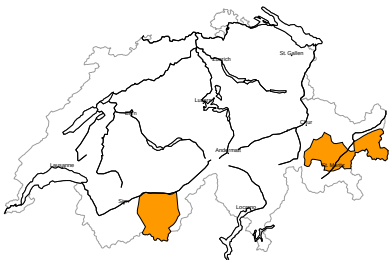
Avalanche danger

updated on 5.4.2024, 08:00



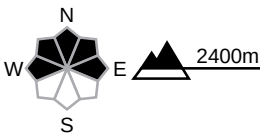
region A



Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



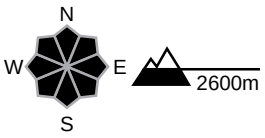
Danger description

In some places dry avalanches can be released in deep layers and reach large size. This applies especially in little used terrain. The avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. In addition the somewhat older wind slabs at elevated altitudes are prone to triggering in some cases still.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

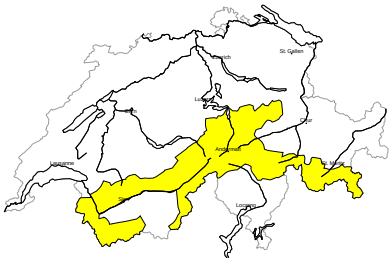


Danger description

In particular on steep grassy slopes large gliding avalanches are possible. Gliding avalanches can be released at any time of day or night. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.
As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more frequent moist snow slides and avalanches are possible as the day progresses.

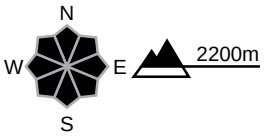
region B

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



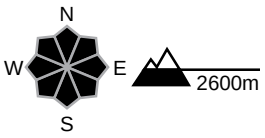
Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs represent the main danger. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. The avalanches are medium-sized.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

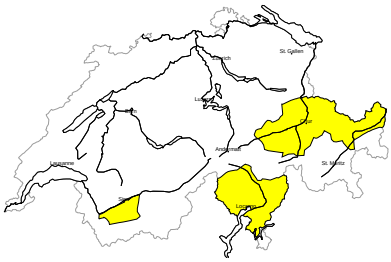


Danger description

In particular on steep grassy slopes large gliding avalanches are possible. Gliding avalanches can be released at any time of day or night. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.
As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more frequent moist snow slides and avalanches are possible as the day progresses.

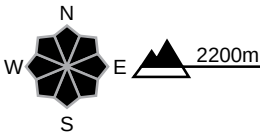
region C

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



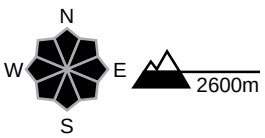
Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs represent the main danger. Persons can release avalanches in some places, including medium-sized ones.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

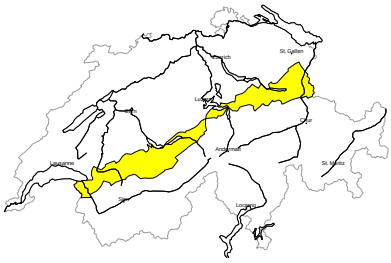


Danger description

In particular on steep grassy slopes large gliding avalanches are possible. Gliding avalanches can be released at any time of day or night. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.
As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more frequent moist snow slides and avalanches are possible as the day progresses.

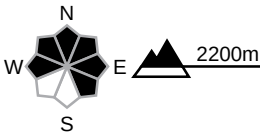
region D

Moderate (2-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



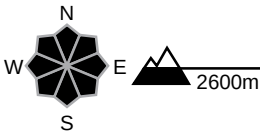
Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are 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. Avalanches can in some places be released by people, but they will be small in most cases. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

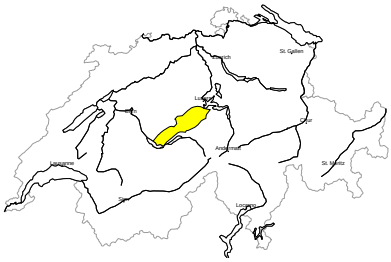


Danger description

In particular on steep grassy slopes large gliding avalanches are possible. Gliding avalanches can be released at any time of day or night. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.
As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more frequent moist snow slides and avalanches are possible as the day progresses.

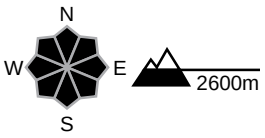
region E

Moderate (2)



Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In particular on steep grassy slopes large gliding avalanches are possible. Gliding avalanches can be released at any time of day or night. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.
As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more frequent moist snow slides and avalanches are possible as the day progresses.

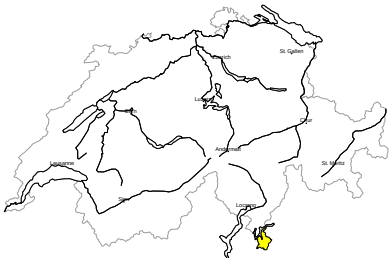
Low (1)

No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely 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.

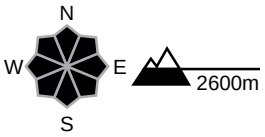
region F

Moderate (2)



Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

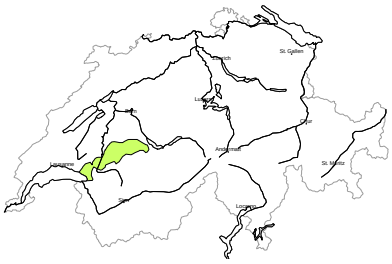


Danger description

In particular on steep grassy slopes large gliding avalanches are possible. Gliding avalanches can be released at any time of day or night. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.
As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation more frequent moist snow slides and avalanches are possible as the day progresses.

region G

Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely 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.

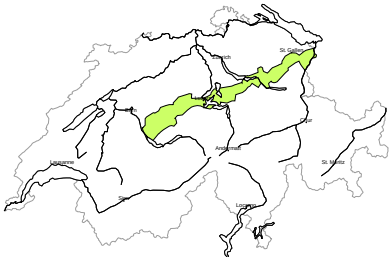
Low (1)

Gliding snow

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

region H

Low (1)



Gliding snow

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.4.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

Above 2000 m, snow depths are widely above average. Above 2500 m, they are well above average. Most of the high-altitude measuring stations along the Main Alpine Ridge are showing record snow depths for early April. At intermediate altitudes, snow depths are mostly below average in the north and above average in the south. There is still some snow on the flat measuring fields below 1500 m, especially in the Gotthard region.
Sometimes strong westerly winds have led to the formation of wind slabs in recent days. Some of these are still prone to triggering, especially at high altitudes. Isolated avalanche fractures in deeper layers of the snowpack were observed over the Easter weekend in southern Valais, central Grisons and Engadine. Along both the northern and the southern flanks of the Alps, there are hardly any weak layers deeper in the snowpack.
The snowpack has become thoroughly wet below approximately 2200 m, and up to around 3000 m on south-facing slopes under the new snow. As a result of the considerable warming and the solar radiation, there is an increased possibility of moist snow slides and avalanches. There is also more of a possibility of gliding avalanches again. These may become large, and in the regions with a lot of snow in the south, occasionally very large.

Weather review for Thursday, 04.04.2024

During the night, there were locally small amounts of precipitation in the west and north, falling as snow above approximately 1800 m. During the day, it was often cloudy in the north, and at times sunny with patches of cloud in the inneralpine regions and in the south.

New snow
During Wednesday night into Thursday, the following amounts of fresh snow were recorded above approximately 2200 m:
- in the west and in the Gotthard region: 5 cm, locally up to 10 cm;
- elsewhere: less, or it remained dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, +3 °C, zero-degree level at 2500 m.

Wind
In the north, winds were moderate to strong, and elsewhere light to moderate, blowing from the west.

Weather forecast until Friday, 05.04.2024

Thursday night into Friday will be cloudy at times in the north, and light showers are possible in some localities along the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in Prättigau. During the day it will be mostly sunny with patches of cloud. In the south, it will be sunny at times after a mostly clear night. It will be appreciably warmer at high altitudes, with the zero-degree level rising to approximately 3400 m as the day progresses.

New snow
-

Temperature
Temperatures will rise. At midday at 2000 m, between +8 °C in the north and +3 °C in the south.

Wind
- There will be moderate to strong winds in the west and north and light to moderate winds elsewhere, blowing from the southwest to the west.
- In the Alpine valleys of the north, a foehn wind from the south will develop as the day progresses.

Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 5. April 2024

Trend until Sunday, 07.04.2024

Over the weekend, it will be mostly sunny with occasional high patches of cloud. With the zero-degree level at approximately 4000 m, it will be extremely mild for the time of year. On Sunday in particular, visibility may be obscured by Sahara dust. There will be light to moderate southwesterly winds, becoming moderate to strong in the north on Sunday. In the Alpine valleys of the north, there will be a moderate foehn wind from the south.
The danger of dry avalanches will decrease in the south, but may increase slightly in some regions in the north as a result of strong southerly winds.
The danger of wet avalanches will increase appreciably as the day progresses as a result of solar radiation and warmer daytime temperatures. More gliding avalanches are expected again. They may occur at any time and become large, and occasionally very large in the south. Tours, freerides and hut ascents should be started early and finished on time.