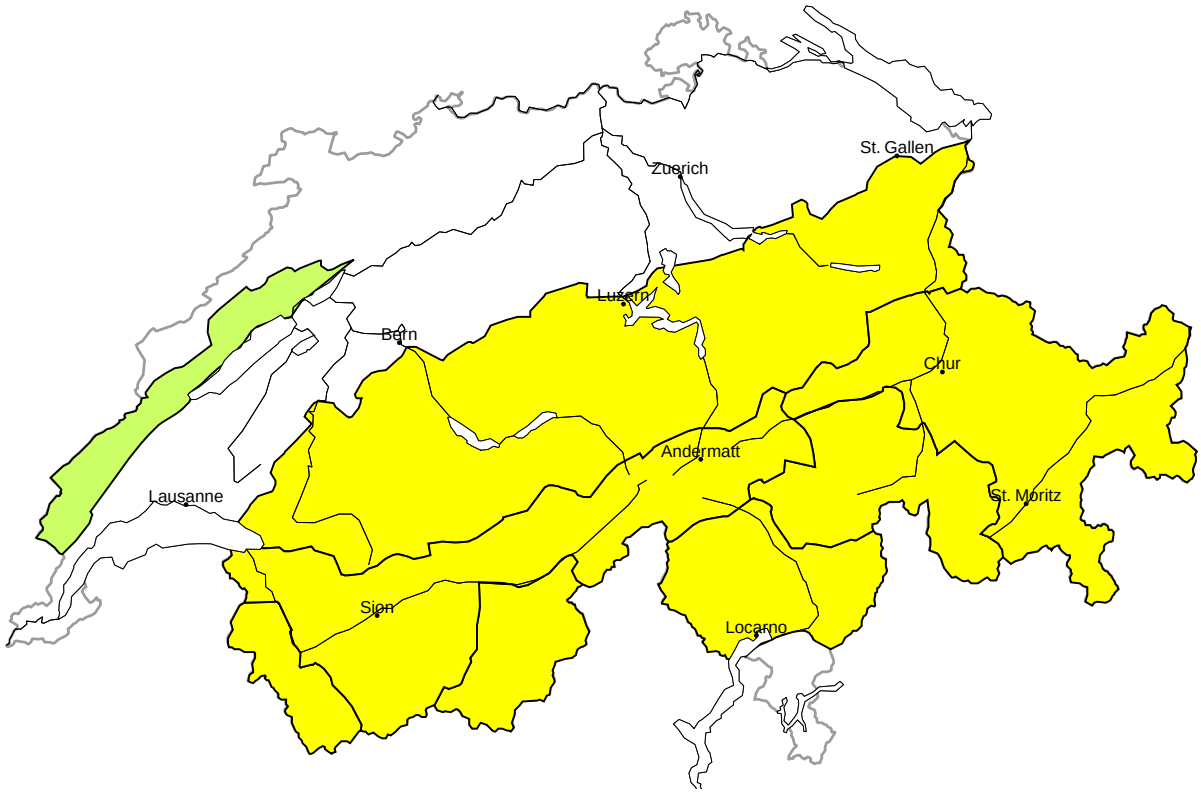
Avalanche bulletin through Friday, 8. December 2023

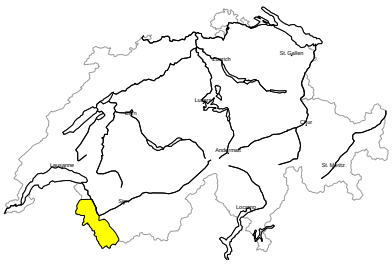
Avalanche danger

updated on 7.12.2023, 17:00



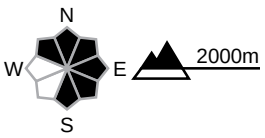
region A

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh wind slabs are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. In addition the somewhat older wind slabs are capable of being triggered in some cases still. Avalanches can be released by people and reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

In all aspects more medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

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

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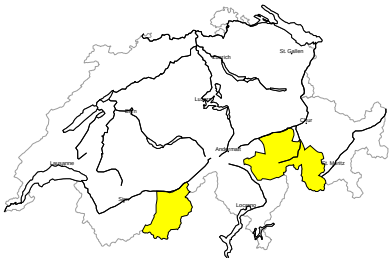
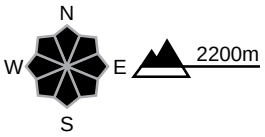
region B — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

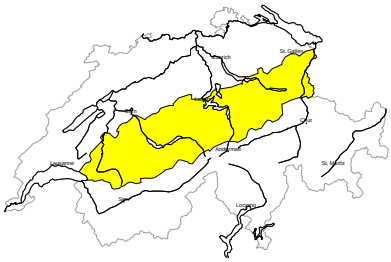
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

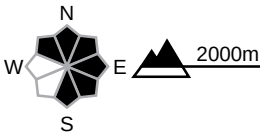
Somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases still prone to triggering. These represent the main danger. They are covered with new snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls and at elevated altitudes. Winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can in isolated cases be triggered in deep layers. Avalanches can reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

region C — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Gliding snow

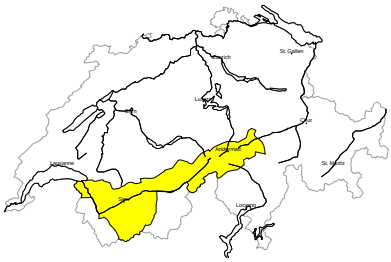
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

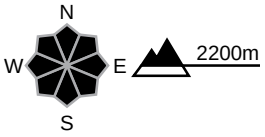
Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases still prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with new snow and are therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can in some places be released by people and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.
In all aspects more medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region D — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Gliding snow

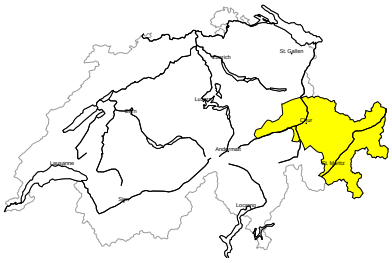
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

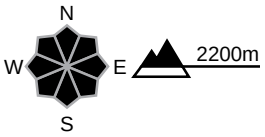
The fresh and older wind slabs can still be released in some cases. Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.
In all aspects more medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region E — Moderate (2-)



Wind slab, Gliding snow

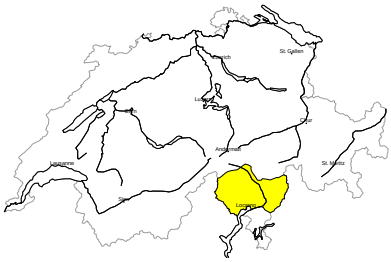
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

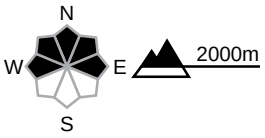
The sometimes new snow-covered wind slabs of Monday can still be released in some cases. Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.
In all aspects more medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region F — Moderate (2-)



No distinct avalanche problem

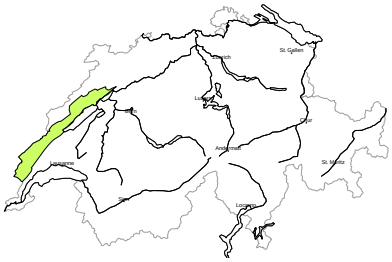
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in some cases be released in near-surface layers. These can in isolated cases release deeper layers of the snowpack and reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain.
Careful route selection is recommended.

region G — Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extreme terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls. On very steep grassy slopes small and medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 7.12.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

Snow layering is mostly favourable north of the Rhône-Rhine line. Especially in the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons and on the southern flank of the Alps, weak layers deep in the snowpack may still be released in some places. Especially in the west, new fallen snow and wind may result in fresh snowdrift accumulations, some of which may be prone to triggering.
Below around 2200 m, layers of the snowpack that are near the ground are sometimes moist. This means that gliding avalanches are still to be expected.
In many areas, there is about twice as much snow as there normally is at the beginning of December. Only on the southern flank of the Alps are snow depths below average.

Observed weather review Thursday, 07.12.2023

It was mostly sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow
During Wednesday night, a few centimetres of fresh snow were registered down to low altitudes, especially on the central and eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the far west and -8 °C in the southeast.

Wind
The winds turned from north to west and blew:
- moderately to strongly during the night at high altitudes;
- otherwise mostly at weak to moderate strength.

Weather forecast through Friday, 08.12.2023

Overnight cloud will increase from the west. During the day it will be mostly very cloudy. Snow will fall occasionally, mostly in the west.

Fresh snow
The snowfall level will rise rapidly in the west and north from low altitudes to around 1500 m in the west and 1200 m in the east, while it will remain low for longer in the inneralpine regions. In the south it will remain at low altitudes. Above that, the following amounts of snow will fall:
- extreme west of Lower Valais: 10 to 15 cm;
- western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps, rest of Lower Valais: 5 to 10 cm;
- elsewhere: to a lesser extent.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the north and -4 °C in the south.

Wind
Winds will blow from the west:
- mostly moderately during the night;
- easing during the day.

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Outlook through Sunday, 10.12.2023

Saturday
Once the precipitation ends during Friday night, it will be quite sunny during the day. It will turn milder. As the day progresses, the westerly wind will increase appreciably. The avalanche danger will increase somewhat, especially on the northern flank of the Alps.

Sunday
During Saturday night, precipitation will fall in the north, mostly on the northern flank of the Alps, which will see 15 to 30 cm. The precipitation will end on Sunday morning. It will remain dry in the far south. The snowfall level will initially be above 2000 m before dropping to around 1200 m. On Sunday afternoon it will become increasingly sunny in the south and from the west. The avalanche danger will increase across the board, especially on the northern flank of the Alps.