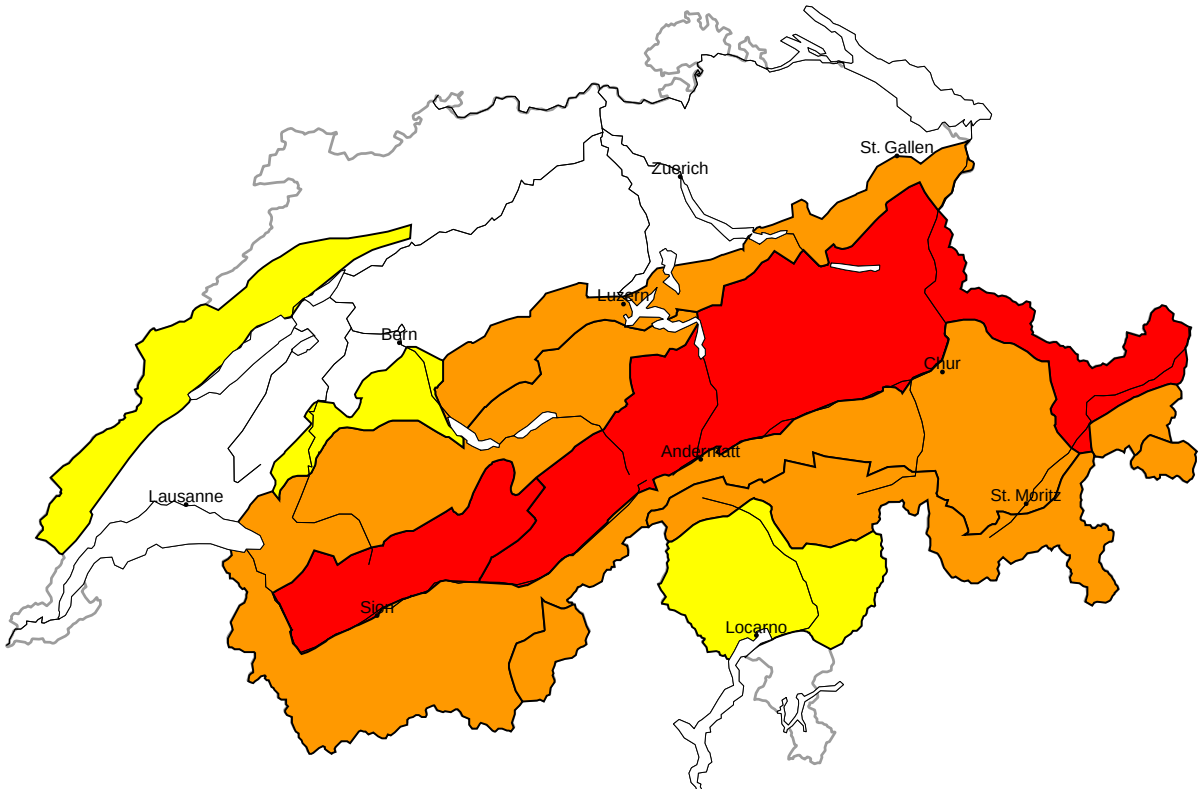
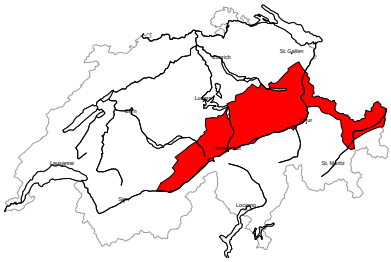
Avalanche danger

updated on 21.12.2023, 17:00

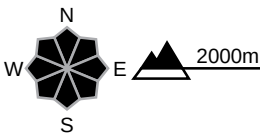


region A — High (4=)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



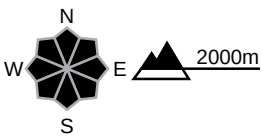
Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. An increasing number of large natural avalanches are to be expected. In particular on north, east and southeast facing slopes avalanches can in some cases reach very large size. Exposed transportation routes are endangered. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are dangerous.

region B — High (4-)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations

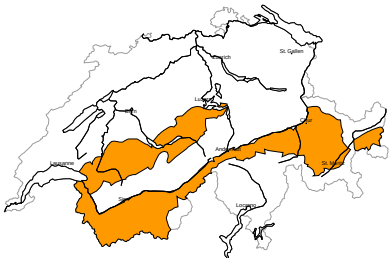


Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. More frequent natural avalanches are to be expected, even large ones. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are very critical.

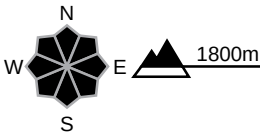
Avalanche bulletin through Friday, 22. December 2023

region C — Considerable (3+)



New snow

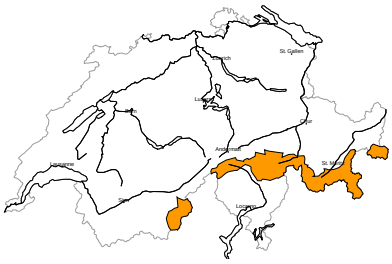
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

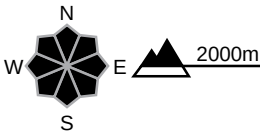
Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. An increasing number of natural avalanches are possible. In the course of the day probably danger level 4 (high) will be reached. The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are critical.

region D — Considerable (3=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



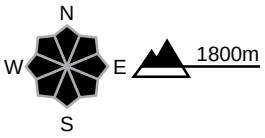
Danger description

The fresh wind slabs represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released easily and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region E — Considerable (3=)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



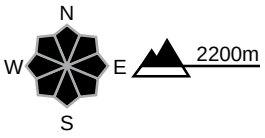
Danger description

The fresh snow and the extensive wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Mostly they are medium-sized. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region F — Moderate (2=)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



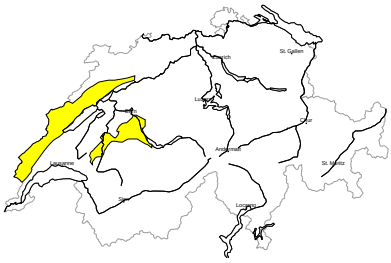
Danger description

As a consequence of a storm force northerly wind, wind slabs will form. They are mostly small 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. In very isolated cases avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size.
Careful route selection is advisable.

Avalanche bulletin through Friday, 22. December 2023

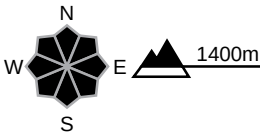
region G

Moderate (2-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a storm force wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form in particular in the vicinity of peaks. These are rather small. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The wind slabs are to be avoided in particular in very steep terrain.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 21.12.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

The large amount of new fallen snow, especially on shady slopes, has fallen partly on an angularly built-up snowpack surface and in places on surface hoar and thus on rather unfavourable old snowpack. There is often still loose snow in the upper part of the old snowpack, which can be carried away by avalanches. Occasionally, avalanches can also release deeper in the snowpack in the area of older rain crusts due to the overload of the large amount of new fallen snow. This is particularly the case at altitudes between 2200 and 2600 m. Deeper snowpack layers are usually well compacted.Some of the avalanche paths in the typical avalanche tracks have been erased by older avalanches. Avalanches can travel a long way in such avalanche tracks.

Weather review for Thursday, 21.12.2023

It was very cloudy and there was some precipitation. This intensified in the afternoon. The snowfall level rose from 800 to 1800 m.

New fallen snow
5 to 15 cm of fresh snow fell on the northern flank of the Alps, partly in Valais and in northern Grisons, with other regions either seeing less snow or remaining dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the north and +2 °C in the south.

Wind
- In the west and north, the wind from the west increased from strong to stormy during the day.
- In the south and southeast, there was a moderate to strong wind from the west to northwest.

Weather forecast until Friday, 22.12.2023

It will be very cloudy with heavy precipitation. The snowfall level will be between 1000 and 1500 m, and a little lower in the inner Alpine valleys. It will be dry and quite sunny in the Sottoceneri.

New fallen snow
From Thursday afternoon to Friday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected above approximately 1800 m:
- Northern Alpine Ridge from the Jungfrau region to the Alpstein, Silvretta, Samnaun: 60 to 100 cm;
- rest of the northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais, northern Grisons: 40 to 60 cm;
- otherwise widespread 20 to 40 cm, less on the southern flank of the Alps and in the Jura, dry in the Sottoceneri.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the north and 0 °C in the south.

Wind
There will be a stormy northwesterly wind.

Avalanche bulletin through Friday, 22. December 2023

Trend until Sunday, 24.12.2023

Saturday

During Friday night, precipitation will still be heavy in places, falling as snow above 1000 to 1200 m. The precipitation is expected to end as the day progresses, ending in the east last. In the afternoon there will be brighter spells in Valais, while in the south it will be dry and quite sunny. A storm-force northwesterly wind will continue to blow. Another 20 to 40 cm of snow may fall from the Jungfrau region to the Alpstein and in the Lower Engadine north of the Inn. However, these precipitation amounts are still unconfirmed.With the new fallen snow, the avalanche danger in the regions exposed to precipitation may increase slightly. The avalanche situation in these regions therefore remains very critical. Numerous naturally triggered avalanches are still expected, especially during Friday night. Very large avalanches are also possible. Exposed parts of transportation routes will be at risk. The avalanche situation also remains critical in Valais and in the other regions of the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, but the activity of natural avalanches is decreasing. The danger of gliding snow avalanches will rise again.

Sunday

It is expected to be partly clear during Saturday night and partly sunny in the morning. There will be little but widespread precipitation in the afternoon. The snowfall level will increase rapidly towards 2000 m. It will remain dry and quite sunny in the south. There will be moderate to strong winds, with some continuing stormy winds at high altitudes blowing from west to northwest.The danger of dry avalanches is expected to decrease. Gliding snow avalanches are expected, including large ones.