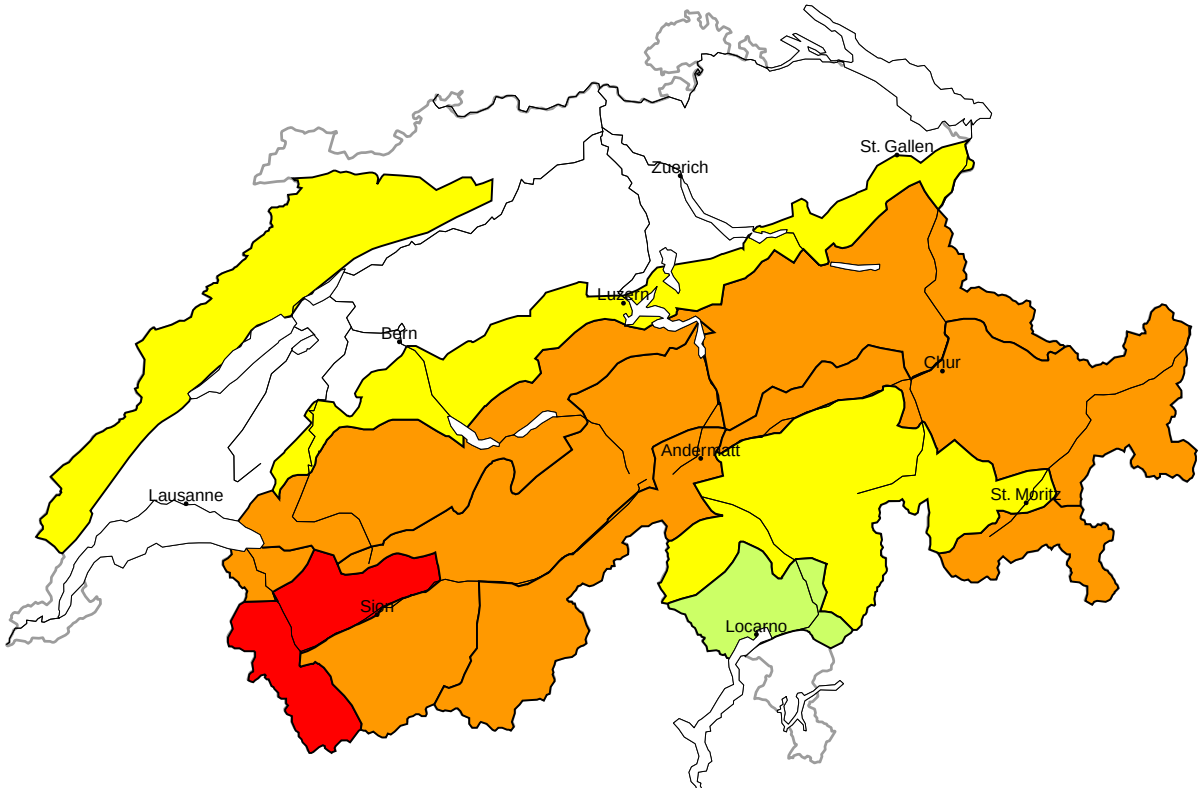
Avalanche bulletin through Friday, 1. December 2023

In the west a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

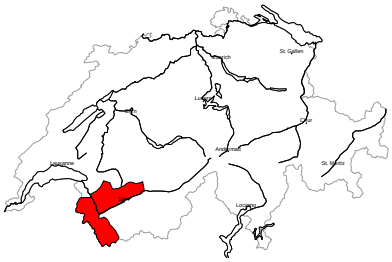
Edition: 30.11.2023, 17:00 / Next update: 1.12.2023, 08:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 30.11.2023, 17:00

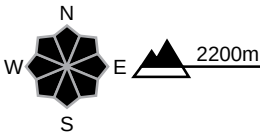


region A | **High, Level 4-**



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

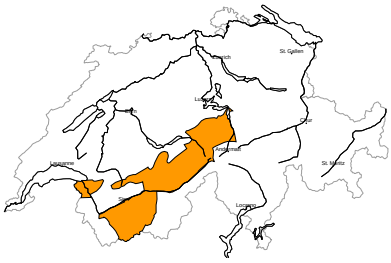
The large quantity of fresh snow and the extensive wind slabs are prone to triggering. As a consequence of the heavy snowfall more natural avalanches are to be expected during the night, even very large ones in isolated cases. In the typical avalanche paths they can reach as far as the valley bottom and endanger transportation routes that are exposed.
Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. The conditions are critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

Wet avalanches, Gliding avalanches

As a consequence of the rain more wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected during the night, even large ones in isolated cases. This applies in particular below approximately 2200 m.

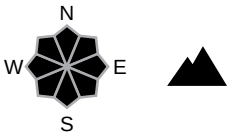
Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 considerable 4 high 5 very high

region B — Considerable, Level 3+



New snow, Wet avalanches

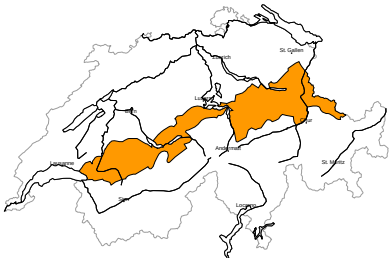
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

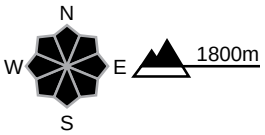
The avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found above approximately 2000 m. The fresh snow and the sometimes large wind slabs are prone to triggering. In some places avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack. As a consequence of the snowfall more natural avalanches are to be expected during the night. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. Avalanches can reach large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.
As a consequence of the rain more wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected during the night, even large ones in isolated cases. This applies in particular below approximately 2000 m.

region C — Considerable, Level 3=



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found above approximately 1800 m. The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. In some places avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack and reach large size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

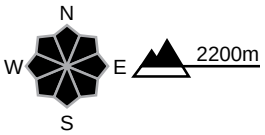
Wet avalanches, Gliding avalanches

As a consequence of the rain more wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected during the night, in particular medium-sized ones. This applies in particular below approximately 1800 m.

region D — Considerable, Level 3-

Snow drift

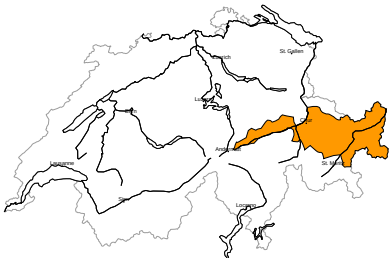
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

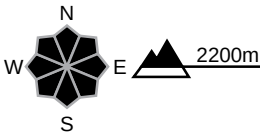
The more recent wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant. They can reach medium size.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region E — Considerable, Level 3-



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations

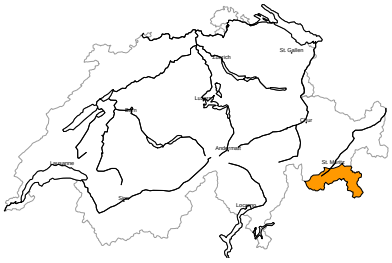


Danger description
In particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack avalanches can be triggered in the old snow and reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye.
Defensive route selection is advisable. Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

Gliding avalanches

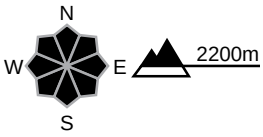
On very steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible, even medium-sized ones. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region F — Considerable, Level 3-



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations

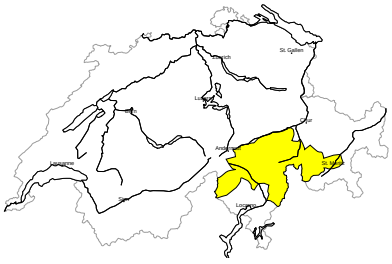


Danger description
As the day progresses as a consequence of new snow and wind there will be an increase in the avalanche danger to level 3 (considerable). Fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. In some places avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack and reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Wet avalanches

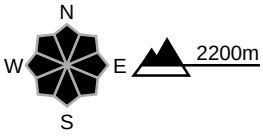
As a consequence of the rain wet snow slides and avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m.

region G — Moderate, Level 2+



Snow drift, Old snow

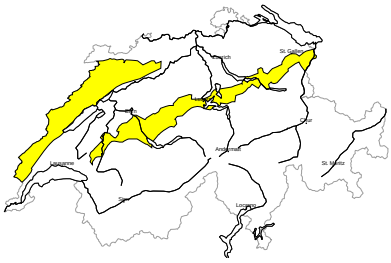
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
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 isolated cases be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size.
Defensive route selection is important.

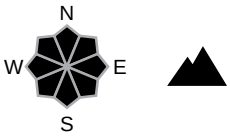
Avalanche bulletin through Friday, 1. December 2023

region H — Moderate, Level 2



Wet avalanches

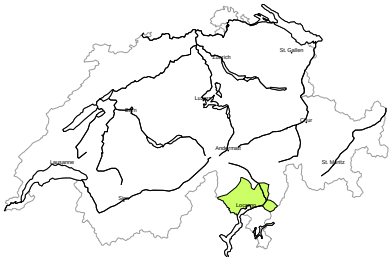
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the rain small and medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible in all altitude zones.

region I — Low, Level 1



Snow drift

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are only small but can be released in isolated cases. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence especially in extremely steep terrain. Even a snow slide can sweep people along and give rise to falls.
The Avalanche Warning Service currently has only a small amount of information that has been collected in the field, so that the avalanche danger should be investigated especially thoroughly in the relevant locality.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 30.11.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

Above the tree line, there is about twice as much snow as is normally the case at the end of November. Only in the south are the snow depths below average. In the central part of the snowpack there are various melt-freeze crusts and, in between, thin layers of angular crystals. A number of avalanches have been released in these weak layers in the past few days, and this is expected to increase with the freshly fallen snow and the rise in the temperature.
The southwesterly wind has moved a lot of this new snow. Below around 1500 to 2000 m, the snowpack has become moist and weakened because of rain.

Observed weather review Thursday, 30.11.2023

It was very cloudy, and precipitation set in during Wednesday night. At first, snow fell even in the lowlands. The snowfall level then rose to around 1800 m in many places. In the south, it remained at low altitudes.

Fresh snow
Until Thursday afternoon, fresh snowfall was registered at altitudes of approximately 2000 m and above:
- Lower Valais and northern Upper Valais: 30 to 40 cm, 50 cm on the border with France;
- southern Upper Valais except the upper Visp valleys, Val Bregaglia, Val Poschiavo and the eastern Jura above 1000 m: 15 to 30 cm;
- elsewhere: to a lesser extent.

Temperature
There were warm incoming air flows at altitude, while colder air remained for longer further down:
- At midday at 2000 m, between +2 °C in the far west and -4 °C in the inneralpine regions and in the south.

Wind
Moderate to strong, in places a stormy southwesterly wind at high altitudes.

Weather forecast through Friday, 01.12.2023

It will be very cloudy. There will be widespread precipitation, most of it during the night in the far west and in the afternoon in the Bernina region. In the north, the snowfall level will be around 2000 m during the night, dropping to 1000 m during the day. In the southeast, however, the snowfall level will increase to around 2000 m during the day.

Fresh snow
From Thursday afternoon to Friday afternoon, snow will fall above approximately 2400 m:
- the far west of Lower Valais on the border with France, the Bernina region: 30 to 40 cm;
- the far west of Lower Valais, northern Upper Valais, the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, the northern part of Central Switzerland, the eastern Prealps, Avers, Val Valais, Val Poschiavo: 15 to 30 cm;
- elsewhere: to a lesser extent.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, widespread at -3 °C, in the southeast at 0 °C.

Wind
Strong at altitude, otherwise weak to moderate from the southwest.

Avalanche bulletin through Friday, 1. December 2023

Outlook through Sunday, 03.12.2023

Saturday
It will be very cloudy with snowfall, including at low altitudes. On the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, the forecast is still very uncertain and even greater depths of new, freshly fallen snow are possible. Elsewhere, 5 to 15 cm will be common. As the day progresses, it will become sunny in the far south with strong northerly winds.
The avalanche danger will decrease in the west. On the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, it may increase depending on the amount of fresh snow, maybe particularly in the Bernina region. In the other regions, the avalanche danger will not change significantly.

Sunday
It will be mostly sunny, but cold. The northwesterly wind will die down during the night.
Even though the avalanche danger will decrease, the situation will to some extent remain precarious for off-piste winter sports.