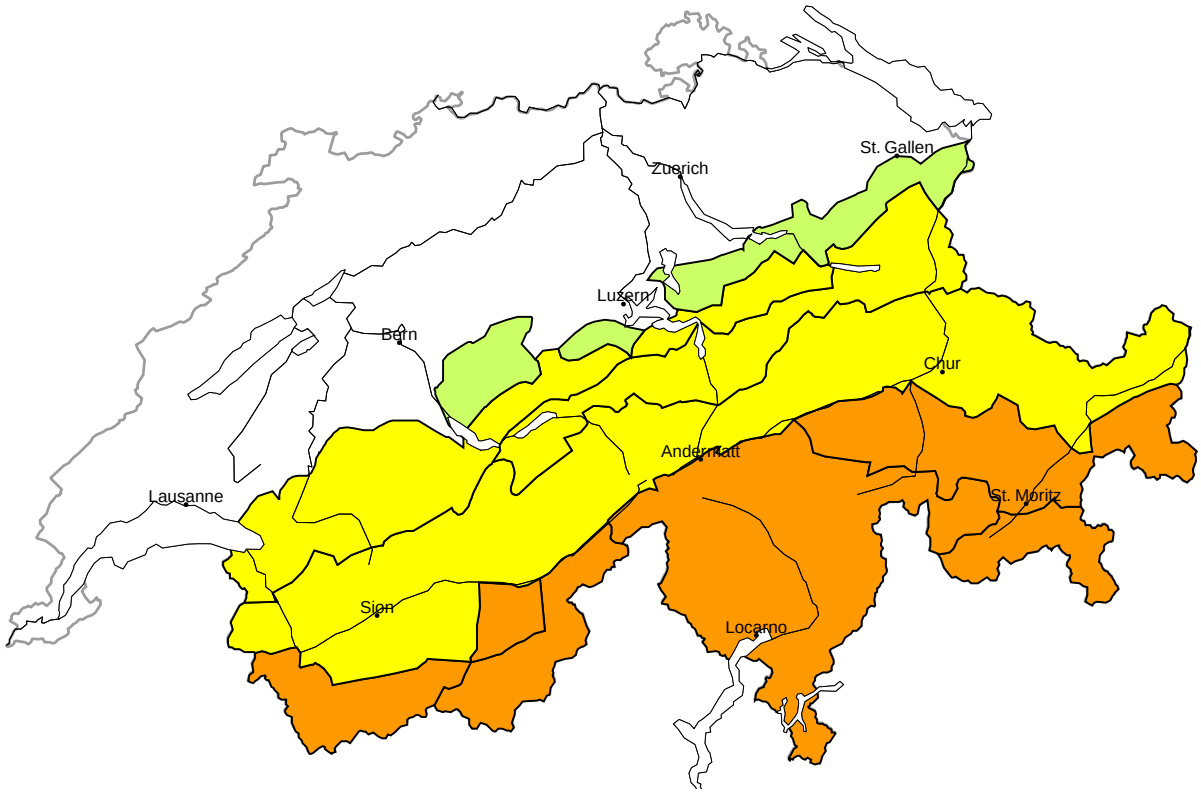
Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 29. February 2024

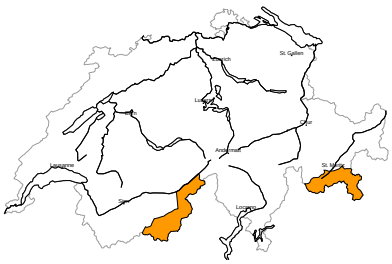
Avalanche danger

updated on 29.2.2024, 08:00



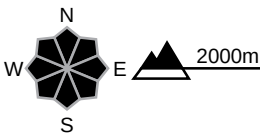
region A

Considerable (3=)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



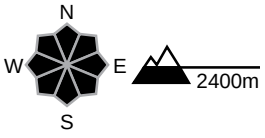
Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow of the last few days represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. Natural avalanches are no longer to be expected.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

On steep grassy slopes more frequent gliding avalanches are to be expected, in particular medium-sized ones. 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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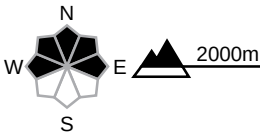
region B

Considerable (3-)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



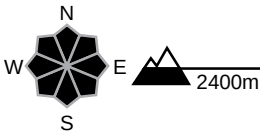
Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow of the last few days represent the main danger. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

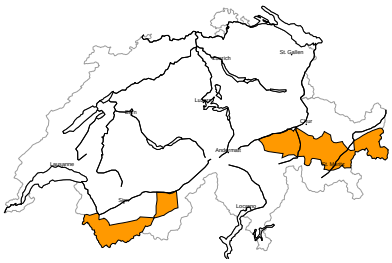
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

On steep grassy slopes more frequent gliding avalanches are to be expected, in particular medium-sized ones. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

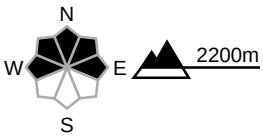
region C



Considerable (3-)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



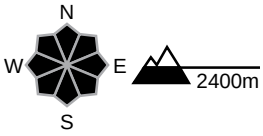
Danger description

Somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are covered with new snow in some cases and therefore difficult to recognise. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. They can in very isolated cases penetrate deep layers and reach quite a large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

On steep grassy slopes more gliding avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

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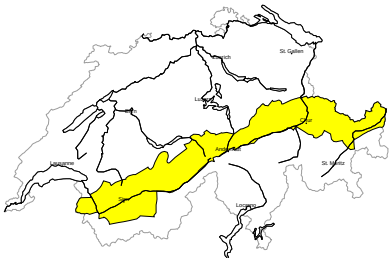
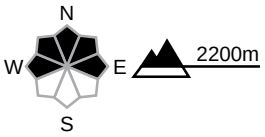
region D



Moderate (2=)

No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



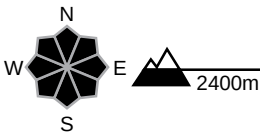
Danger description

Dry avalanches can in some cases be released in near-surface layers. Avalanches can reach medium size. The somewhat older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. Careful route selection is appropriate.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

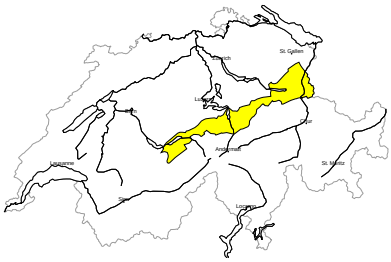
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

On steep grassy slopes more gliding avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

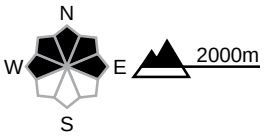
region E



Moderate (2-)

No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



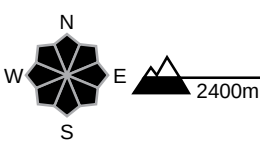
Danger description

Dry avalanches can in some cases be released in near-surface layers and reach medium size in isolated cases. The somewhat older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Careful route selection is recommended.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

On steep grassy slopes more gliding avalanches are possible. These can in isolated cases reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

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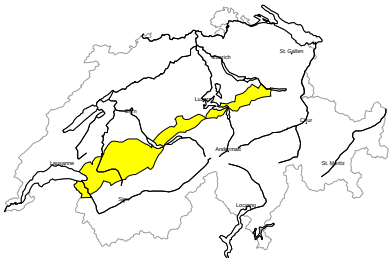
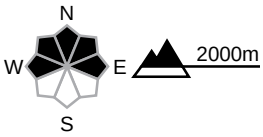
region F

Moderate (2-)



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Dry avalanches can in some cases be released in near-surface layers and reach medium size in isolated cases. The somewhat older wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example. Careful route selection is recommended.

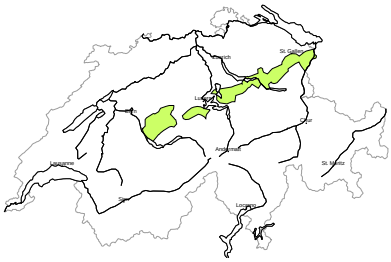
Low (1)

Gliding snow

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

region G

Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Only a little snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations 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 very steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach medium size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 28.2.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

The large amount of new snow in the south over the last six days is increasingly settling and consolidating. Below approximately 2000 m, it has become moist. The snowdrift layers have also largely stabilised in the north.
In general, the new snow and wind slabs of recent days overlay a mostly compact old snowpack, mostly containing many crusts and, between them, layers with a faceted crystal structure. Only a few avalanches originating in these deeper layers have been observed recently. However, when deeper layers do fracture, avalanches can be surprisingly large. Individual gliding avalanches are still possible, especially on east-, south- and west-facing slopes below approximately 2400 m and more rarely on north-facing slopes. These may occasionally be large.

Weather review for Wednesday, 28.02.2024

It was very cloudy during the night and in the late morning. In the early morning, the precipitation ended in the south. It turned increasingly sunny in the afternoon.

New snow
The snowfall level was between 1500 m and 1800 m. From Tuesday midday to Wednesday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow fell:
- from Monte Rosa to the Simplon region: 20 to 40 cm;
- rest of the Main Alpine Ridge in Valais, Bedretto, northern Valle Maggia and Bernina region: 10 to 20 cm;
- other parts of the Main Alpine Ridge and south of this: less;
- dry in the north.

This means that the following snowfall totals have been recorded over the past six days, since Thursday:
- central part of the southern flank of the Alps, Main Alpine Ridge from the Rheinwald to the Bernina region as well as Bivio and Upper Engadine: 80 to 120 cm, locally up to 150 cm;
- western Lower Valais, rest of the Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon to the Gotthard region, central Grisons, Lower Engadine and Val Müstair: 40 to 80 cm;
- rest of Valais and northern Grisons: 20 to 40 cm;
- further north: less.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around +1 °C.

Wind
- In the western part of the Northern Alpine Ridge, there were occasionally strong southerly winds at high altitudes.
- A moderate Bise wind blew in the western Prealps.
- Otherwise the wind was mostly weak from the east.

Weather forecast until Thursday, 29.02.2024

After a mostly clear night in the mountains, it will be mainly sunny during the day in the north, above the low stratus cloud. On the southern flank of the Alps, it will be very cloudy during the day.

New snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +4 °C in the north and +1 °C in the south.

Wind
There will be a southerly wind:
- mostly weak during Wednesday night into Thursday;
- increasing during the day and moderate at high altitudes, with a moderate foehn wind in the Alpine valleys of the north.

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Trend until Saturday, 02.03.2024

Friday will be very cloudy with frequent precipitation, especially on the southern flank of the Alps. The snowfall level will drop from 1500 m to 1000 m in the north. It will be around 1400 m in the south. On Saturday, it will be very cloudy along the Main Alpine Ridge and south of it, with further precipitation. It will be quite sunny in the north with an increasing foehn wind. On both days, a total of 20 to 40 cm of snow will fall on the Main Alpine Ridge and south of it, and 10 to 20 cm in the north. The danger of dry avalanches will increase, especially in the south. Gliding avalanches will still be possible.

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