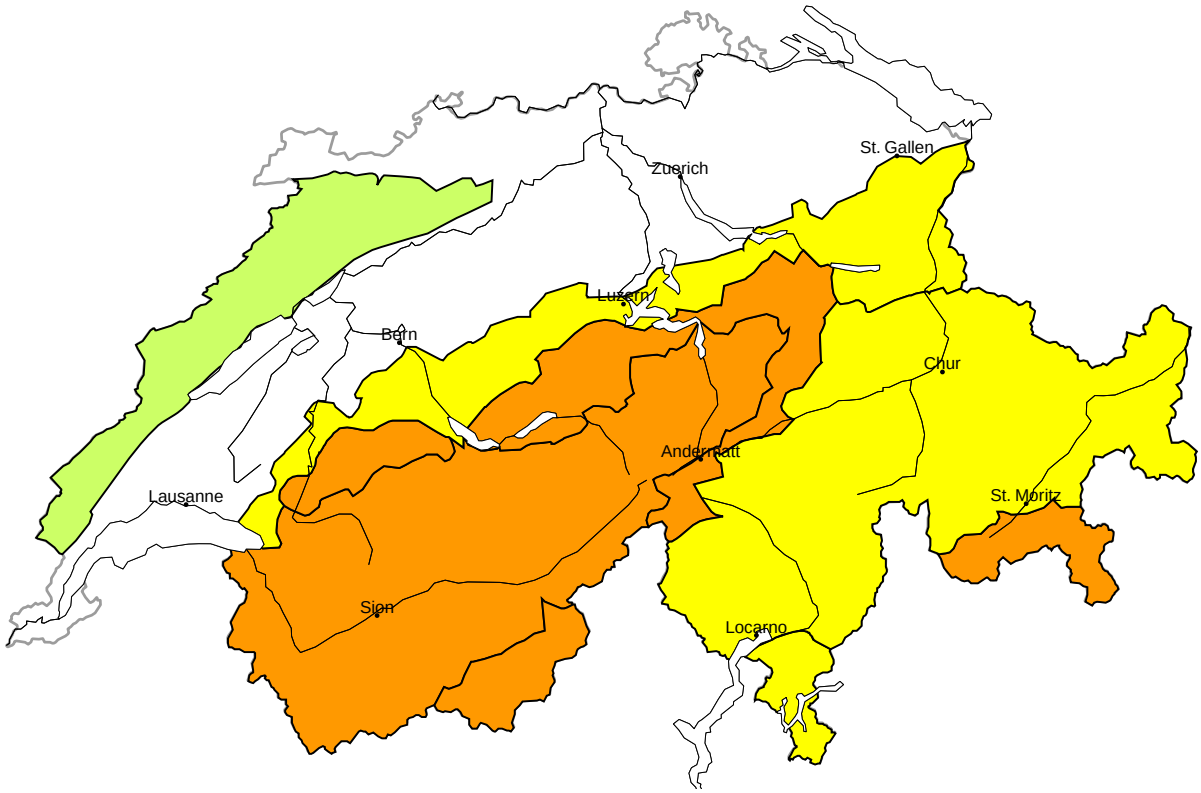
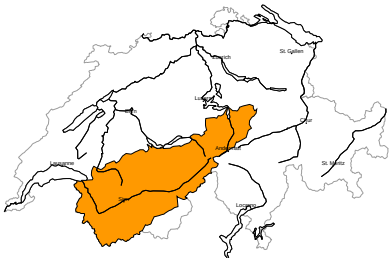
Avalanche danger

updated on 19.1.2024, 17:00



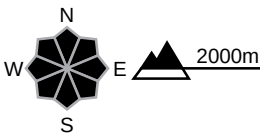
region A

Considerable (3=)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



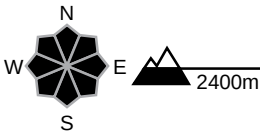
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Avalanches can additionally be released in deeper layers also. These can reach large size. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



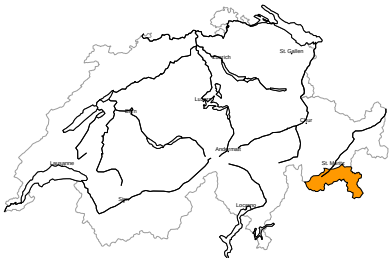
Danger description

More gliding avalanches are possible. In some cases these are large. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

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

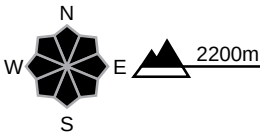
region B

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
Somewhat older wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Mostly these are medium-sized. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Low (1)

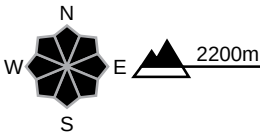
Gliding snow
On steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. In isolated cases these are large. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region C

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

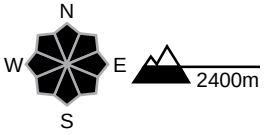


Danger description
Somewhat older wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Mostly these are medium-sized. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

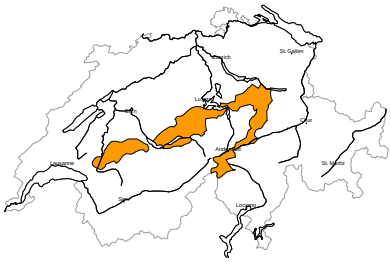
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
More gliding avalanches are possible. In some cases these are large. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Avalanche bulletin through Saturday, 20. January 2024

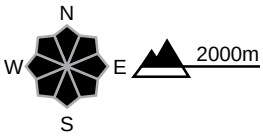
region D



Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



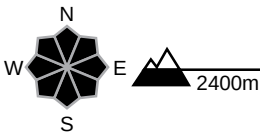
Danger description

Somewhat older wind slabs are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. They are covered with new snow and therefore difficult to recognise. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Mostly these are medium-sized. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

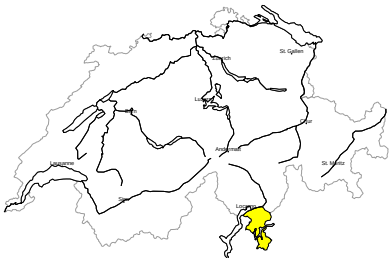
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

More gliding avalanches are possible. In some cases these are large. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

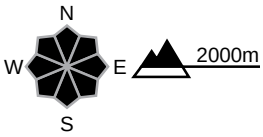
region E



Moderate (2+)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. Avalanches can reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

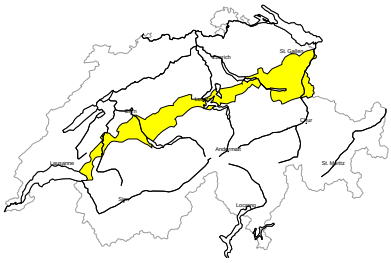
Low (1)

Gliding snow

On steep grassy slopes individual small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

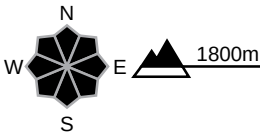
region F

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
As a consequence of bise wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. The fresh and older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Mostly avalanches are small. Careful route selection is advisable.

Low (1)

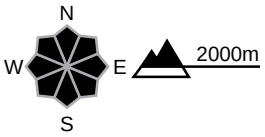
Gliding snow
On steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. In isolated cases these are large. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region G

Moderate (2+)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



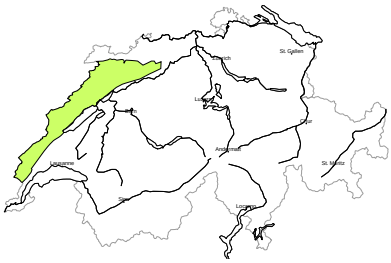
Danger description
The fresh and older wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in some places. Avalanches can reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Low (1)

Gliding snow
On steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. In isolated cases these are large. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region H

Low (1)



Gliding snow
On steep grassy slopes individual small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 19.1.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

In places above approximately 2200 m that are protected from the wind, a lot of the new snow and snowdrift are, in some regions, lying on a weak layer which has an angular structure and is prone to triggering. People can trigger avalanches in this layer, especially where it is thinly overlaid, i.e. in areas with little fresh snow or in places with little snow located in areas that have seen a lot of fresh snow. Aside from more recent snowdrift accumulations, the number of avalanche-prone locations where avalanches can be released within new snow and snowdrift is decreasing.
Below approximately 2200 m, the snow is damp under the snow that fell from Thursday to Friday and is stabilising with the cold. However, gliding avalanches are still possible.

Weather review for Friday, 19.01.2024

In the morning, the snowfall ended in the east. In the south, it was already sunny in the morning with a strong foehn wind from the north, otherwise it gradually cleared up during the day.

New snow
The snowfall level dropped from 1600 m to low altitudes during Thursday night into Friday. From Thursday afternoon to Friday morning, the following amounts of fresh snow were recorded above approximately 1600 m:
- western Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps: widespread 15 to 30 cm;
- rest of Valais, Grisons: 5 to 15 cm;
- Ticino: less, or it remained dry.

This means that in three days, the following amounts of fresh snow were recorded above approximately 2400 m:
- Lower Valais, Vaud Alps, northern Valais, neighbouring Bernese Oberland: 60 to 80 cm, and up to 100 cm on the border with France;
- the other parts of Upper Valais excluding the Visp valleys and southern Upper Valais; and the other western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps: 30 to 60 cm;
- less elsewhere.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -12 °C in the north and -8 °C in the south.

Wind
- During Thursday night into Friday, there was a weak to moderate wind turning from the west to the northeast.
- There was a moderate to strong northerly wind during the day on the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge and south of it, with a rising Bise wind in the Jura and on the western part of the northern flank of the Alps.

Weather forecast until Saturday, 20.01.2024

It will be sunny in the mountains.

New snow
-

Temperature
The temperature will rise. At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in the north and -7 °C in the south.

Wind
There will be a northeasterly wind.
- During Friday night into Saturday and in the morning, there will be a mostly moderate wind at altitude, with a strong Bise wind in the Jura and on the western part of the northern flank of the Alps.
- This wind will then fade and turn to the east.

Avalanche bulletin through Saturday, 20. January 2024

Trend

Sunday

It will be quite sunny with occasional extensive, high cloud cover. It will be noticeably milder with moderate to strong westerly to southwesterly winds. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease initially and may increase again as the day progresses with fresh snowdrift. The danger of gliding avalanches will not change significantly.

Monday

Sunday night to Monday will be mostly clear and the zero-degree level will temporarily lie at 3000 m in the west and north. In the morning, there will still be clear spells in the east and south. It will then be very cloudy. The temperatures will drop. Precipitation will fall in the west and north. The danger of dry avalanches will rise somewhat in the west and north. The danger of gliding avalanches will not change significantly.