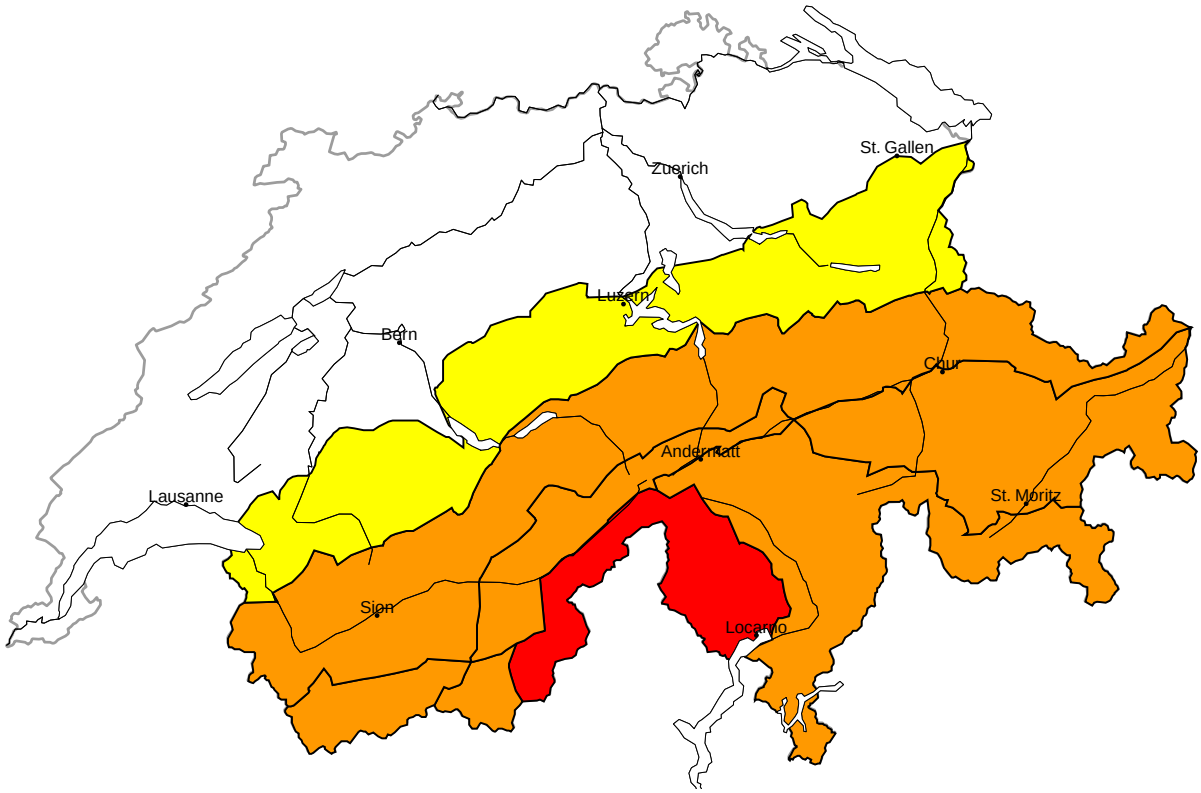
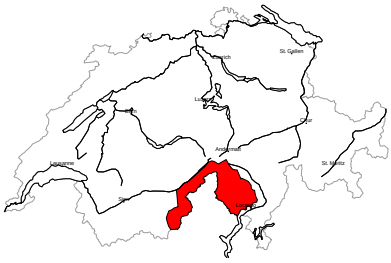
Avalanche danger

updated on 10.3.2024, 17:00



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

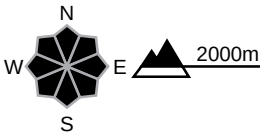
region A



High (4-)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



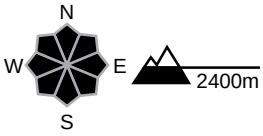
Danger description

The large quantity of fresh snow and the extensive wind slabs formed by the sometimes storm force southerly wind are prone to triggering. During the first half of the night more natural avalanches are to be expected. In the typical avalanche paths these can in isolated cases reach valley bottoms at relatively high altitudes. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.
Hardly any more natural dry avalanches are to be expected on Monday. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches as before, including large ones. The conditions are critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes. Restraint is advisable on this first sunny day.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

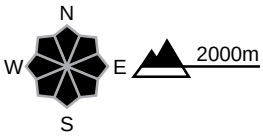
As a consequence of solar radiation numerous moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.
In addition gliding avalanches are possible, in particular on steep grassy slopes. These can reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region B

Considerable (3+)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



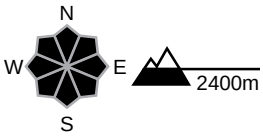
Danger description

The fresh snow and the large wind slabs formed by the sometimes storm force southerly wind are prone to triggering. During the first half of the night more medium-sized and large natural avalanches are to be expected.
Hardly any more natural dry avalanches are to be expected on Monday. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches as before, including large ones. The conditions are critical for snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes. Restraint is advisable on this first sunny day.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



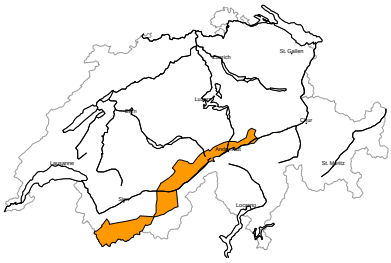
Danger description

As a consequence of solar radiation numerous moist snow slides and avalanches are to be expected.
In addition gliding avalanches are possible, in particular on steep grassy slopes. These can reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Avalanche bulletin through Monday, 11. March 2024

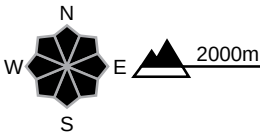
region C

Considerable (3=)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



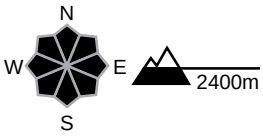
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes storm force southerly wind, hard wind slabs formed also in areas not adjacent to ridgelines. These can especially at their margins be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can in many cases reach medium size.
The wind slabs are to be avoided in steep terrain. 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

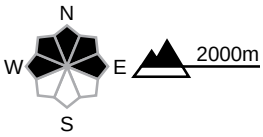
In particular on very steep grassy slopes gliding avalanches are possible. These can reach large size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

region D

Considerable (3=)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



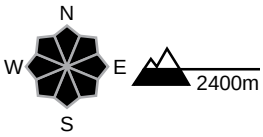
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes storm force southerly wind, hard wind slabs formed also in areas not adjacent to ridgelines. These can especially at their margins be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can additionally be released in deeper layers also. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Avalanches can reach large size in isolated cases. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

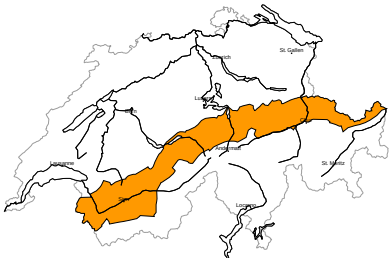


Danger description

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

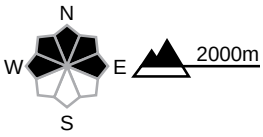
region E

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



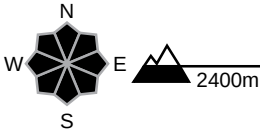
Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes storm force southerly wind, hard wind slabs formed since Friday also in areas not adjacent to ridgelines. These can especially at their margins be released by a single winter sport participant. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



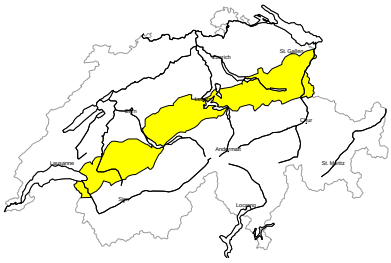
Danger description

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

Avalanche bulletin through Monday, 11. March 2024

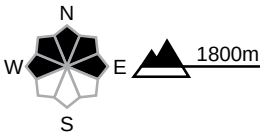
region F

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a storm force foehn wind, hard wind slabs formed since Friday. These are mostly shallow 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.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

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 10.3.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

Fresh snow fell on and to the south of the Main Alpine Ridge at the weekend. The southerly winds led to the formation of extensive wind slabs at high altitudes.
In the north, the loose snow of the past week was heavily transported to below the tree line by the storm-force foehn wind, meaning that the surface of the snowpack is now marked by the wind in many places. The snowdrift was widely deposited on loose snow on north-facing slopes, locally also on surface hoar. As a result, the recent wind slabs were often prone to triggering and many were released by people.
Deep layers of the snowpack are compact in many places. Around the crusts in the upper third of the old snowpack, layers with a sometimes faceted crystal structure are deposited. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, avalanches were released in these layers above around 2400 m in the past week.
Gliding avalanches are still possible, primarily on east-, south- and west-facing slopes below approximately 2400 m and more rarely on north-facing slopes. These may be large.

Weather review for Sunday, 10.03.2024

It was very cloudy. In the south, a lot of snow fell above approximately 1200 m; in the north, the foehn wind raged.

New snow
From Saturday afternoon to Sunday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow fell above approximately 1600 m:
- Simplon region, Bedretto, Valle Maggia: 50 to 70 cm;
- other regions of the Main Alpine Ridge from Monte Rosa to San Bernardino and south of it, Val Bregaglia, Bernina: 30 to 50 cm;
- directly neighbouring regions to the north, Lower Valais Main Alpine Ridge, rest of Upper Engadine: mostly 10 to 20 cm;
- further north: there was less snow or it remained dry.

This means that a total of 60 to 90 cm of snow has fallen since Friday afternoon in the Simplon region, Bedretto and the Valle Maggia.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the southwest and +2 °C in the northeast.

Wind
Until the morning, there was:
- a strong to storm-force southerly wind, with gale-force southerly winds in some areas at high altitudes on the Northern Alpine Ridge;
- a storm-force foehn wind in the valleys of the north;
- a moderate to locally strong southerly wind in the south, only at high altitudes.

The wind gradually died down as the day progressed.

Avalanche bulletin through Monday, 11. March 2024

Weather forecast until Monday, 11.03.2024

On Sunday evening, there will still be little snow above approximately 1100 m. On Monday, it will be quite sunny in the morning, then increasingly cloudy with isolated showers, especially in the north and west.

New snow
From Sunday afternoon to Monday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected:
- central part of the northern flank of the Alps, Main Alpine Ridge from Simplon to Bernina: 5 to 10 cm;
- less elsewhere.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around -3 °C.

Wind
- There will be a moderate southwesterly wind on Sunday evening.
- On Monday, there will be a weak wind.

Trend until Wednesday, 13.03.2024

In the north, it will initially be cloudy with precipitation, which will fall as snow above approximately 1200 m. On the Northern Alpine Ridge from the Jungfrau region to the Alpstein, 20 to 30 cm of new snow is expected, although it remains unclear exactly how much snow there will be. The precipitation will end and it will become quite sunny in the west as Wednesday progresses. In the south, it will be mostly sunny with moderate northerly winds in places on both days.
In the north, the danger of dry avalanches will rise somewhat with the new snow. It will decrease in the south. Gliding avalanches will still be possible, some of which could be large.