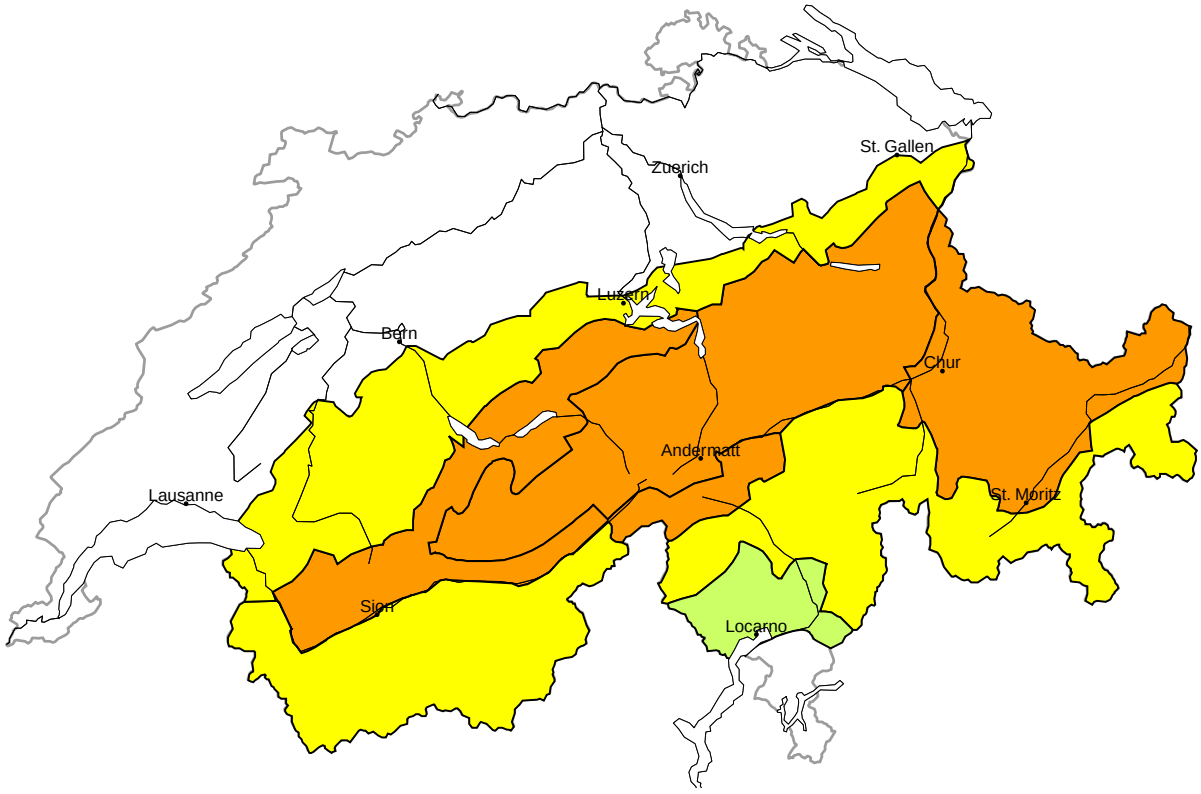
Avalanche bulletin through Saturday, 25. November 2023

Significant increase in avalanche danger as a consequence of new snow and stormy weather

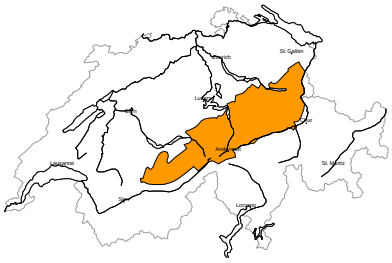
Edition: 24.11.2023, 17:00 / Next update: 25.11.2023, 08:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 24.11.2023, 17:00

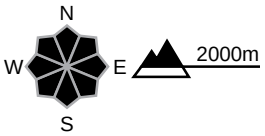


region A | **Considerable, Level 3=**



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. An increasing number of natural avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses. The avalanche danger will increase but remain within the current danger level. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.
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.

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

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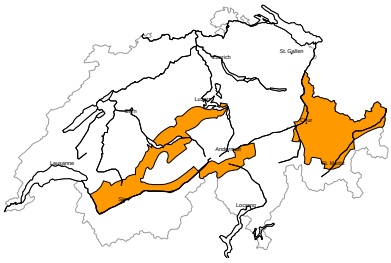
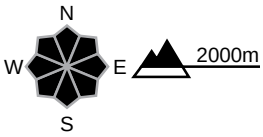
region B — Considerable, Level 3-



New snow

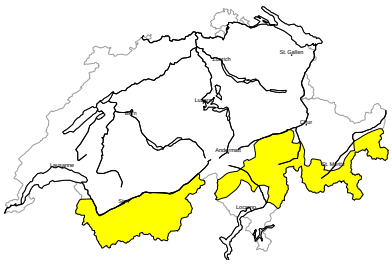
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

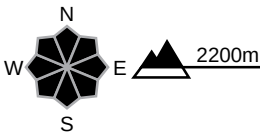
The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger. The Avalanche Warning Service 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.

region C — Moderate, Level 2+



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



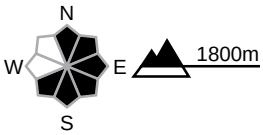
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong to storm force northerly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase with altitude. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.
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.

region D — Moderate, Level 2=

Snow drift

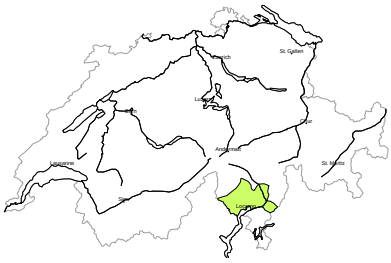
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong to storm force northerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain and generally at elevated altitudes. The avalanches can in isolated cases reach medium size.
The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

region E — Low, Level 1



No distinct avalanche problem

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are small but can be released in isolated cases. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain and in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches 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.

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 24.11.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

Through the impact of rainfall and subsequent drop in temperatures, deeply embedded layers inside the snow cover are generally compact and stable. At altitudes of approximately 2200 to 3000 m, icy crusts have formed over widespread areas due to the rainfall from last weekend, with the exception of in southern regions. In the vicinity of these crusts, expansively faceted weak layers have been observed in places. On the northern flank of the Alps, these layers are now blanketed over by small amounts of fresh fallen snow from this week. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, small-sized snowdrift accumulations lie atop the crusts.
As a result of fresh snow and storm-strength winds, snowdrift accumulations will be generated which are prone to triggering. These drifts will be particularly wide-ranging in the major areas of precipitation on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons.

Observed weather review Friday, 24.11.2023

In the northern regions, skies were predominantly overcast. In the inneralpine regions, cloud cover moved in during the course of the day. In the southern regions it remained still sunny for the most part.

Fresh snow
In the eastern regions there was a minor bit of snowfall above approximately 1400 m.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the northern regions and +5 °C in the southern regions.

Wind
Winds were blowing predominantly at strong velocity, intermittently at storm strength at high altitudes, from westerly to northerly directions.

Weather forecast through Saturday, 25.11.2023

Snowfall down to low lying areas is anticipated over widespread areas, with the focal point in the northern Alpine Ridge and in northern Grisons. In the furthermost southern regions it will remain generally sunny.

Fresh snow
Between Friday evening and Saturday evening, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above approximately 1500 m:

- northern Alpine Ridge from the Wildstrubel as far as Liechtenstein, Prättigau, Silvretta: 30 to 50 cm;
- remaining sectors of the northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais not including furthermost western part of Lower Valais, remaining parts of Gotthard region, remaining parts of Grisons not including southern valleys of Grisons: 15 to 30 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, 5 to 15 cm over widespread areas; in the furthermost southern regions it will remain dry.

Temperature
Temperatures will drop markedly. At midday at 2000 m, to -10 °C.

Wind
Winds in the mountains will be blowing at strong to storm strength from northerly directions.

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Outlook through Monday, 27.11.2023

Sunday

Throughout Saturday night the snowfall will continue down to low lying areas, the focal point on the northern Alpine Ridge and in northern Grisons. A strong to storm-strength northwesterly wind will be blowing. During the daytime hours on Sunday, bright intervals are anticipated in the western regions; it will be quite sunny in the Valais and in the Ticino. Winds are expected to slacken off, but only incrementally at altitudes of 3000 m.

From the Haslital as far as Liechtenstein and in northern Grisons, an additional 15 to 30 cm of fresh snow is expected by Sunday evening. Avalanche danger levels will continue to increase in those regions, possibly reaching Danger Level 4 (high). Since there is still so little snow on the ground at intermediate altitudes, avalanches are not to be expected which reach down to low altitudes. In the remaining regions of Switzerland the avalanche situation for snow sports in outlying terrain away from secured ski pistes is critical over widespread areas. Fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrift accumulations can easily be triggered as avalanches. Only in the furthermost southern regions will the avalanche situation not change significantly. However, there is hardly sufficient snow for winter sports in those regions.

Monday

Skies will be predominantely overcast, but it will remain dry to begin with. As the westerly to southwesterly winds intensify, snowfall down to low lying areas will set in during the course of the day.

Avalanche danger levels are expected to decrease somewhat.