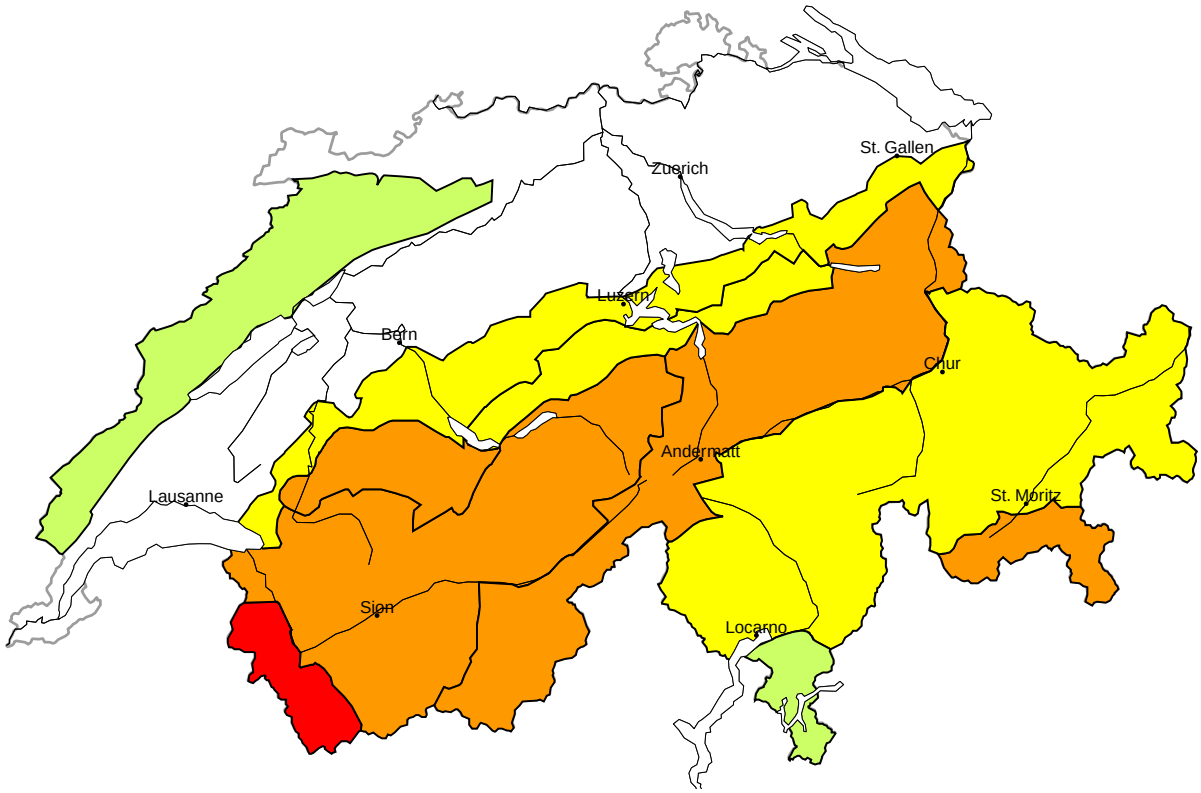
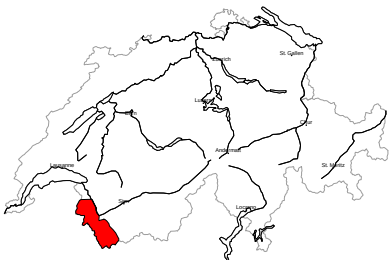
Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 18. January 2024

Avalanche danger

updated on 18.1.2024, 08:00



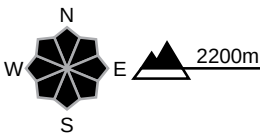
region A



High (4-)

New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



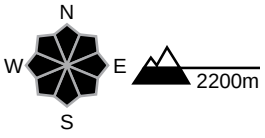
Danger description

The large quantity of fresh snow and the extensive wind slabs that are forming during the snowfall are bonding poorly with the old snowpack in many places. Natural avalanches are to be expected, even large ones. Dry avalanches can in some cases release the saturated snowpack. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.
Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Considerable (3)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

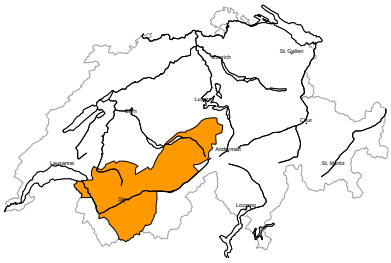
As a consequence of the heavy rain numerous wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected. In isolated cases these are large. Exposed transportation routes can be endangered in some localities.

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

Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 18. January 2024

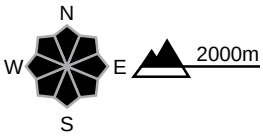
region B

Considerable (3+)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



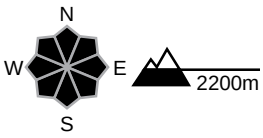
Danger description

The fresh snow and the wind slabs that are forming during the snowfall are bonding poorly with the old snowpack in many places. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including large ones. Natural avalanches are possible. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Considerable (3)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

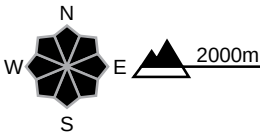
As a consequence of the heavy rain numerous wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected. In isolated cases these are large. Exposed transportation routes can be endangered in some localities.

region C

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong wind, further wind slabs formed. They 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.

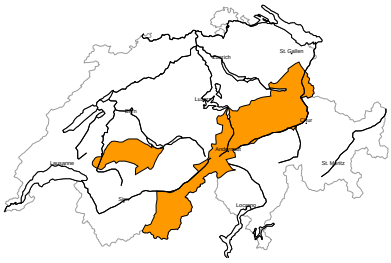
Low (1)

Gliding snow

On steep grassy slopes individual gliding avalanches are possible. In isolated cases these are large. In addition small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized moist snow slides are possible.

Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 18. January 2024

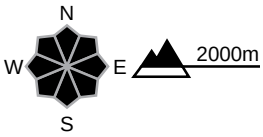
region D



Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



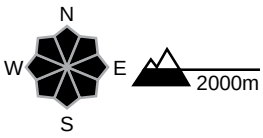
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong wind, further wind slabs formed. They 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)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

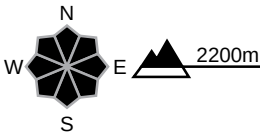
As a consequence of the rain wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected. Mostly these are medium-sized. In isolated cases the gliding avalanches are large. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

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.

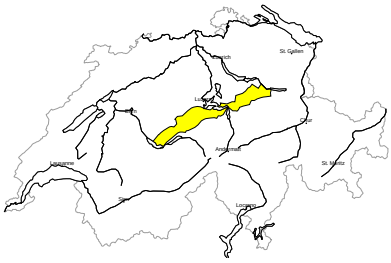
Low (1)

Gliding snow

On steep grassy slopes individual gliding avalanches are possible. In isolated cases these are large. In addition small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized moist snow slides are possible.

Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 18. January 2024

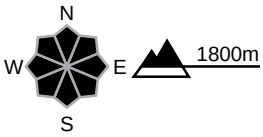
region F



Moderate (2=)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



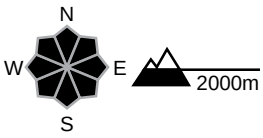
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a moderate to strong westerly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form. They are to be found in particular in the vicinity of peaks. Mostly avalanches are small. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

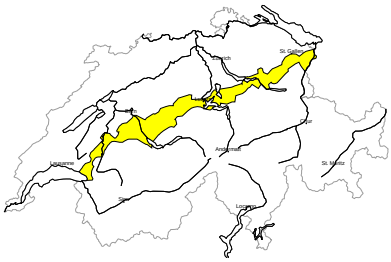
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of the rain wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected. Mostly these are medium-sized. In isolated cases the gliding avalanches are large. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

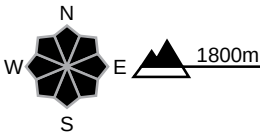
region G



Moderate (2=)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a moderate to strong westerly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form. They are to be found in particular in the vicinity of peaks. Mostly avalanches are small. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain.

Low (1)

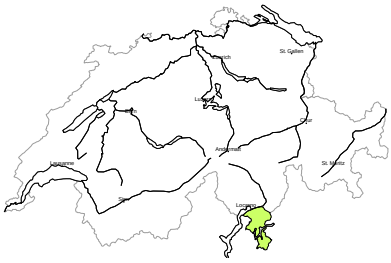
Wet snow

As a consequence of the rain individual wet and gliding avalanches are possible. Mostly these are small. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 18. January 2024

region H

Low (1)



Wind slab

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in isolated cases prone to triggering. Mostly avalanches are small. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on extremely steep slopes. 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.

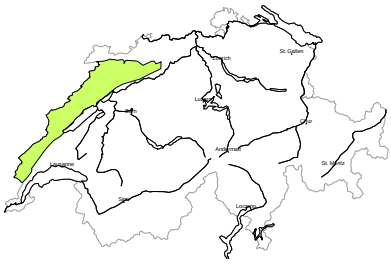
Low (1)

Gliding snow

On steep grassy slopes individual gliding avalanches are possible. In isolated cases these are large. In addition small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized moist snow slides are possible.

region I

Low (1)



Wet snow

As a consequence of the rain individual wet and gliding avalanches are possible. Mostly these are small. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 17.1.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

The old snow surface from last week, angular in structure and partly covered with surface hoar, has in recent days become a weak near-surface layer prone to triggering in many places as a result of the wind and some new snow. In the west, this layer mostly no longer exists because the rain on Wednesday soaked it down to around 2200 m. Above this altitude and in the other regions, where there was little or no rain on Wednesday, the weak layer is still present and prone to triggering, especially on slopes that are largely sheltered from the wind. With the expected arrival of fresh snow, avalanches triggered or occurring naturally in this weak layer may be larger than before.
There are hardly any critical weak layers deeper in the snowpack.
As the snowfall level drops, wet avalanche activity will decrease.

Weather review for Wednesday, 17.01.2024

It was mostly cloudy with clear spells due to the foehn wind. Precipitation fell in the west and north. The snowfall level rose rapidly towards 2200 m in the early morning.

New snow
From Tuesday evening to Wednesday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow were recorded above approximately 2500 m:
- Vaud Alps, extreme west of Lower Valais, northern Valais: 15 to 30 cm;
- rest of Valais, rest of the northern flank of the Alps, Bedretto: 5 to 15 cm; elsewhere: less or it remained dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +3 °C in the west and north and -4 °C in the south.

Wind
There was a southwesterly wind:
- strong, sometimes storm force, in the west and on the Main Alpine Ridge;
- otherwise moderate to strong.

Weather forecast for Thursday, 18.01.2024

It will be very cloudy with widespread precipitation, with the largest amounts falling in the west. The snowfall level will gradually drop from 2200 m on Wednesday evening to 1600 m on Thursday afternoon.

New snow
From Wednesday afternoon to Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are expected above approximately 2500 m:
- extreme west of Lower Valais along the border with France: 40 to 60 cm;
- rest of Lower Valais, northern Valais, western part of the northern flank of the Alps: 20 to 40 cm;
- southern Upper Valais, rest of the northern flank of the Alps, rest of the Main Alpine Ridge: 10 to 20 cm; less in the other regions.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around 0 °C.

Wind
There will be a westerly to southwesterly wind, strong to storm strength in the north and generally at high altitudes.

Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 18. January 2024

Trend until Saturday, 20.01.2024

The precipitation will end during Thursday night into Friday. A further 5 to 10 cm of snow will fall widely, with up to 20 cm on the northern flank of the Alps. During the day, it will be mostly sunny in the west and south and increasingly sunny elsewhere. On Saturday, it will be sunny in all regions. In the north, there will be mostly weak to moderate northeasterly winds, with a strong northerly foehn wind blowing for a time in the south on Friday. It will be very cold on both days.
The avalanche danger will decrease.