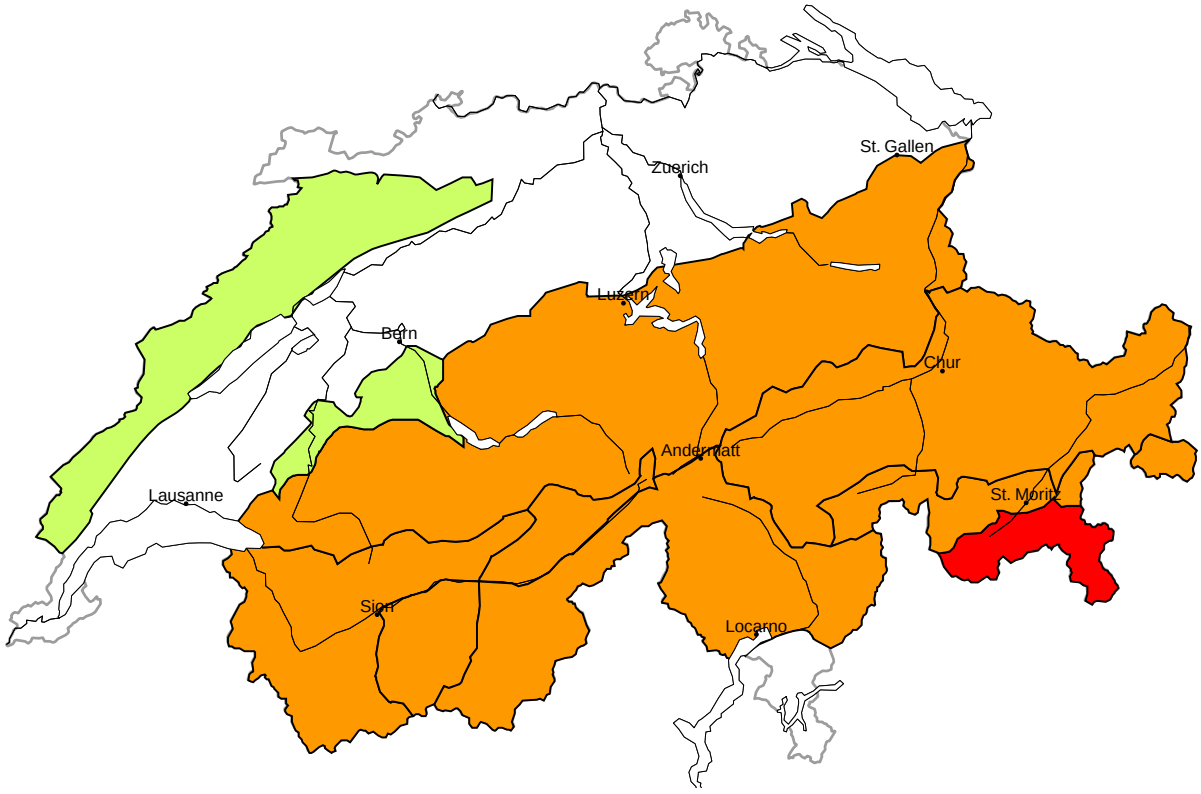
Avalanche bulletin through Saturday, 2. December 2023

In Upper Engadine a high avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 1.12.2023, 17:00 / Next update: 2.12.2023, 08:00

Avalanche danger

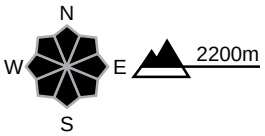
updated on 1.12.2023, 17:00



region A | **High, Level 4-**

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The large quantity of fresh snow and the extensive wind slabs are prone to triggering. As a consequence of the heavy snowfall more frequent natural avalanches are to be expected, even very large ones in isolated cases. In the typical avalanche paths they can reach valley bottoms at relatively high altitudes and endanger transportation routes that are exposed.
Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. The conditions are very critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

Wet avalanches

As a consequence of the rain wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2200 m.

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

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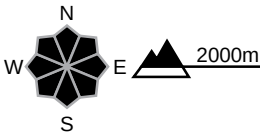
region B — Considerable, Level 3+

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



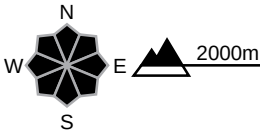
Danger description

The large quantity of fresh snow and the large wind slabs are prone to triggering. As a consequence of the heavy snowfall natural avalanches are to be expected, even large ones.
Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. The conditions are critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

region C — Considerable, Level 3+

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The large quantity of fresh snow of the last few days and the wind slabs are prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. Natural avalanches are possible. These can reach large size.
Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches. The conditions are critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

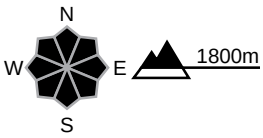
Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m more gliding avalanches are to be expected, even large ones in isolated cases. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region D — Considerable, Level 3=

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. In some places avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack and reach large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m more gliding avalanches are to be expected, in particular medium-sized ones. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

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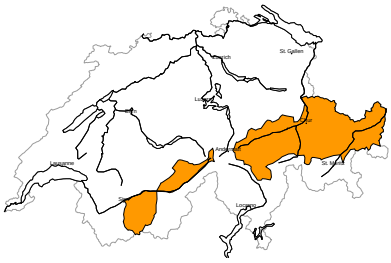
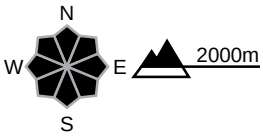
region E — Considerable, Level 3=



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



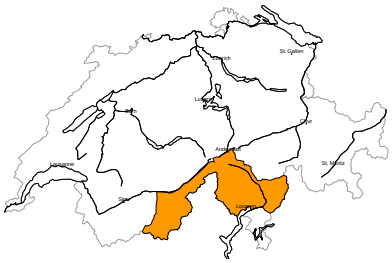
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Mostly avalanches are medium-sized and can be released even by a single winter sport participant. In some places avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack and reach large size.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Gliding avalanches

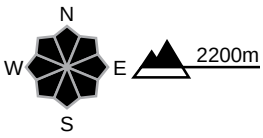
Below approximately 2000 m more gliding avalanches are to be expected, in particular medium-sized ones. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region F — Considerable, Level 3-



Snow drift

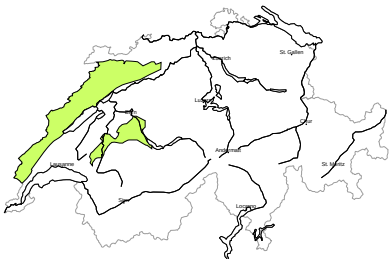
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. These are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. They can reach medium size.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region G — Low, Level 1



Snow drift, Gliding avalanches

In particular on very steep grassy slopes small and medium-sized wet and gliding avalanches are possible.
In addition small wind slabs will form in the vicinity of peaks. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 1.12.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

A lot of fresh snow and snowdrift are widely prone to triggering at high altitudes. Below around 2000 m, the snowpack has become moist because of the rain and there have been a lot of gliding avalanches.
Above 2000 m, there is widely about twice as much snow as is normally the case at the start of December. Only in the south and in the Upper Engadine are snow depths below average. In the central part of the snowpack there are various melt-freeze crusts and, in between, thin layers of angular crystals. A number of avalanches have been triggered in these weak layers over the past few days.

Observed weather review Friday, 01.12.2023

It has been very cloudy with considerable precipitation in some regions. The snowfall level dropped from around 2000 m to around 1200 m. In the Engadine, it rose to 2200 m in the course of the day.

Fresh snow
From Thursday to Friday afternoon, at above around 2400 m, the following snowfall levels were registered:
- the far west of Lower Valais and northern Lower Valais, the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, the main Alpine Ridge from the San Bernardino Pass to the Bernina Pass: 30 to 40 cm; on the border with France: 50 cm; and from Val Bregaglia to the Bernina: 50 cm;
- the rest of Lower Valais, northern Upper Valais, central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps: 20 to 30 cm;
- elsewhere: lower levels.

This means that since Wednesday evening the following snowfall has been recorded:
- the northern Alpine Ridge west of the Aare, Lower Valais: 60 to 80 cm;
- the rest of the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, the main Alpine Ridge from the San Bernardino Pass to the Bernina Pass: 40 to 60 cm;
- the rest of the northern flank of the Alps, the Jura: 20 to 40 cm;
- elsewhere: lower levels.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in the north and +2 °C in the far west of Lower Valais and in the Upper Engadine.

Wind
- On Thursday evening, there were sometimes strong westerly winds at high altitudes.
- These then eased to relatively weaker to moderate, with in the Engadine sometimes strong southwesterly winds.

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Weather forecast through Saturday, 02.12.2023

It will be very cloudy and there will be widespread snowfall down to the lowlands. In the Upper Engadine, there will be very heavy precipitation during the night, with the snowfall level here initially remaining at around 2000 m and then also falling to low altitudes. As the day progresses, it will be partially sunny in central and southern Ticino with strong northerly winds.

Fresh snow
From Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon the following snowfall levels are anticipated:
- the main Alpine Ridge from the Avers to the Bernina Pass: 40 to 60 cm above approximately 2200 m;
- the rest of Grisons: 30 to 40 cm down to low altitudes;
- elsewhere, widely 20 to 30 cm down to low altitudes, but less in Upper Valais, western Ticino and the Jura.

Temperature
Significantly cooler, with a midday temperature at 2000 m of between -10 °C in the north and -6 °C in the south.

Wind
- On Friday evening in Ticino and Grisons, there will be a strong southwesterly wind at high altitudes.
- On Saturday, there will be strong northerly winds on the main Alpine Ridge, in the south and at high altitudes also in Grisons.
- Otherwise, the wind will be weak to moderate and blow from various directions.

Outlook through Monday, 04.12.2023

Sunday
It will be mostly sunny, but cold. The northwesterly wind will die down during the night.
Although the avalanche danger will decrease, the situation will remain precarious for off-piste winter sports in many places.

Monday
It will be very cloudy. In the afternoon, little snow will fall in the west down to the lowlands. As the day goes on, there will be increasingly strong southwesterly winds, and foehn winds in the valleys of the north.
The wind will shift the loosely bonded old snow, resulting as the day progresses in snowdrift accumulations that are prone to triggering and the avalanche danger potentially increasing slightly in some regions.