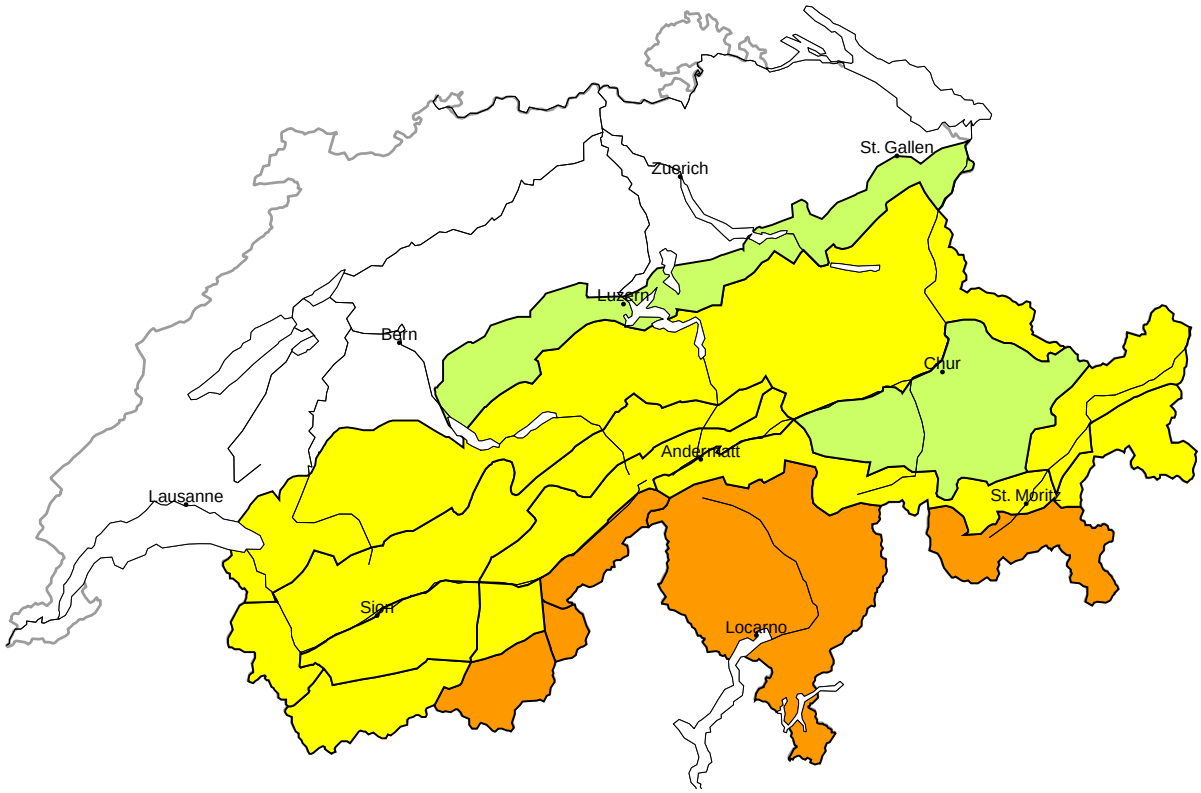
Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 12. March 2025

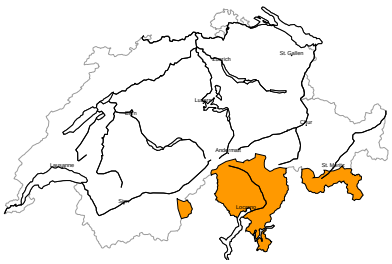
Avalanche danger

updated on 12.3.2025, 08:00



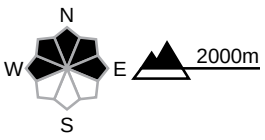
region A

Considerable (3=)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow is lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases. In some places avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

Individual gliding avalanches are possible, in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes. In isolated cases these are medium-sized.

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

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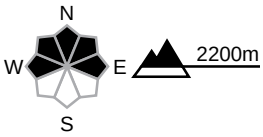
region B

Considerable (3-)

New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. At elevated altitudes the prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations will increase. In isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in deep layers. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

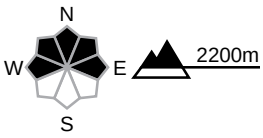
Individual gliding avalanches are possible, in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes. In isolated cases these are medium-sized.

region C

Moderate (2=)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can reach medium size. In isolated cases avalanches can also penetrate deep layers. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

More gliding avalanches are possible, in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes. This applies especially below approximately 2500 m. Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large avalanches are possible.

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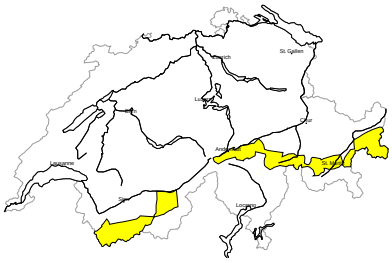
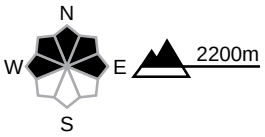
region D



Moderate (2=)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

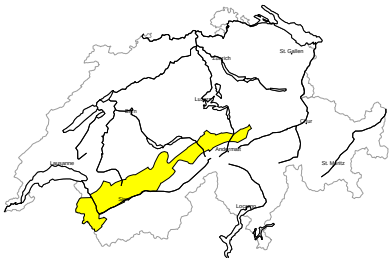
The new snow and wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can reach medium size. In isolated cases avalanches can also penetrate deep layers. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

Individual gliding avalanches are possible, in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes. In isolated cases these are medium-sized.

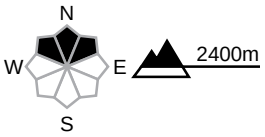
region E



Moderate (2-)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain. 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.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

More gliding avalanches are possible, in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes. This applies especially below approximately 2500 m. Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large avalanches are possible.

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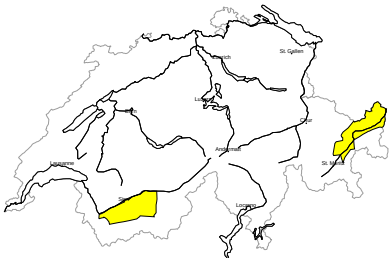
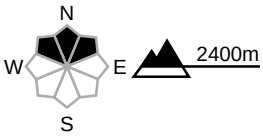
region F

Moderate (2-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. Such avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on extremely steep shady slopes, especially in little used backcountry terrain.

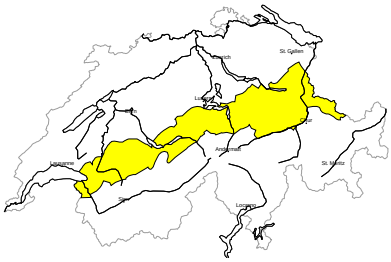
Low (1)

Gliding snow

Individual gliding avalanches are possible, in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes. In isolated cases these are medium-sized.

region G

Moderate (2)



Gliding snow

More gliding avalanches are possible, in particular on steep east, south and west facing slopes. This applies especially below approximately 2500 m. Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large avalanches are possible.

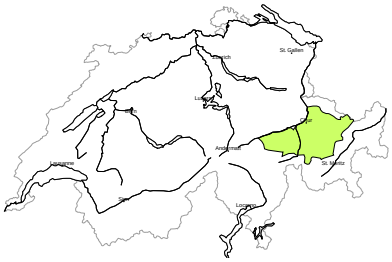
Low (1)

No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. 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.

region H

Low (1)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are small but in some cases prone to triggering, especially at elevated altitudes. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in terrain where there is a danger of falling.
Additionally in very isolated cases avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. Such avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on extremely steep shady slopes.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

Individual gliding avalanches are possible, in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes. In isolated cases these are medium-sized.

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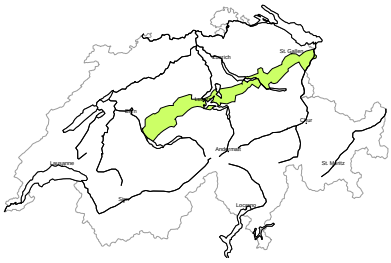
region I

Low (1)



Gliding snow

Individual gliding avalanches are possible. Mostly they are small.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 11.3.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

Snow is continuing to fall in the south, in some locations onto an unfavourable old snow surface of soft, faceted layers, especially on northern slopes. On south-facing slopes, the connection between fresh and old snow is more favourable.
In the north, the somewhat older snowdrift accumulations, which were mostly small, are becoming increasingly stable with a usually well consolidated old snowpack.
In southern Valais, Ticino and Grisons, the old snowpack is faceted and loose. Very occasionally, avalanches may still be triggered in deep layers of the snowpack in these regions.
Gliding avalanches are still possible, especially in the north.

Weather review for Tuesday

In the south, conditions were overcast with intermittent light snowfall. The snowfall level was around 1400 m. There was some sunshine in the west and north.

Fresh snow
From Monday afternoon until Tuesday afternoon, the following amounts fell above approximately 1800 m:
- Main Alpine ridge from the Great St Bernard pass to the Bernina region and south from there: 5 cm
- elsewhere mostly dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south.

Wind
- Light to moderate from southerly directions

Weather forecast to Wednesday

Cloud cover will mainly be heavy with intermittent precipitation. Brighter spells will be only in Valais and on the central part of the northern flank of the Alps and in the east. The snowfall level in the north will drop from around 1600 m to around 1200 m by midday. The snowfall level In the south will be at 1200 m.

Fresh snow
From Tuesday afternoon to Wednesday afternoon, the following amounts will fall above around 1600 m:
- southern flank of the Alps apart from the Simplon region and Val Müstair: 15 to 25 cm
- neighbouring regions to the north from Saas to Val Müstair, western Jura, Chablais: 5 to 10 cm
- elsewhere a few centimetres.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around -2 °C.

Wind
Light to moderate from southwest to south

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Outlook

Thursday and Friday will be overcast in the south. In the north, there will be patchy to heavy cloud cover and snow will fall at times. The snowfall level will be between 1200 and 1500 m, dropping below 1000 m in the north on Friday. On both days, 30 to 50 cm of fresh snow is expected on the central and eastern parts of the southern flank of the Alps. Around 10 to 30 cm of snow is possible in other regions. However, the amounts of precipitation are still very uncertain. Winds will be mostly light to moderate, but occasionally strong from the southwest at higher altitudes.
The danger of dry avalanches will increase with the fresh snow, significantly so in the south. Isolated gliding avalanches will still be possible.