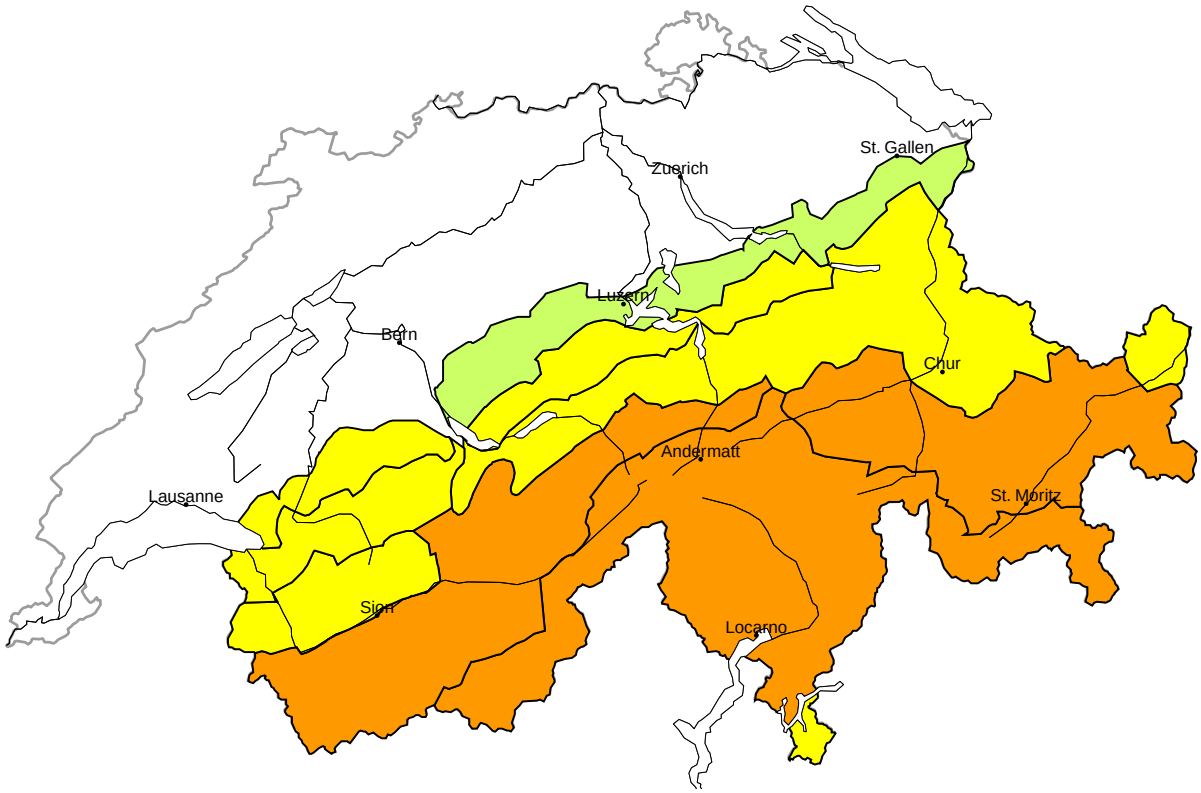
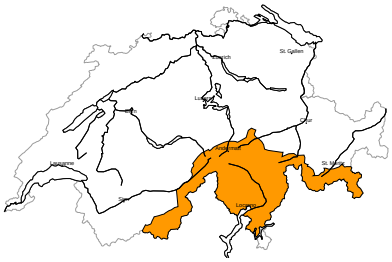
Avalanche danger

updated on 27.3.2024, 17:00



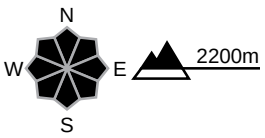
region A

Considerable (3+)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



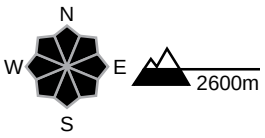
Danger description

The large quantity of fresh snow and the large wind slabs formed by the sometimes storm force southerly wind are prone to triggering. Natural avalanches are possible even now. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily. Avalanches can reach large size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

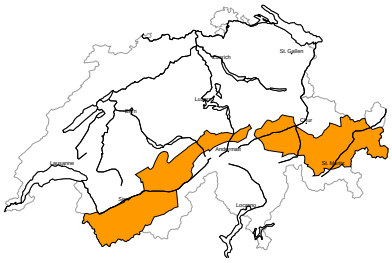


Danger description

In particular on steep grassy slopes occasionally large gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

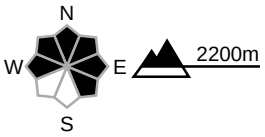
region B

Considerable (3=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

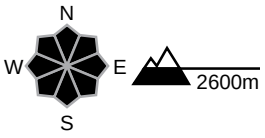


Danger description
The fresh snow and the wind slabs formed by the sometimes storm force southerly wind are prone to triggering. The fresh wind slabs can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Mostly avalanches are medium-sized.
The wind slabs are to be avoided in steep terrain. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

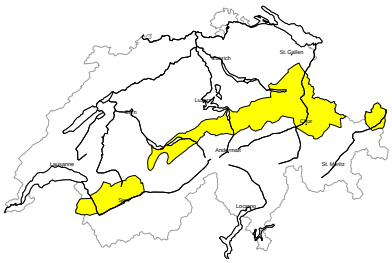
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
In particular on steep grassy slopes occasionally large gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

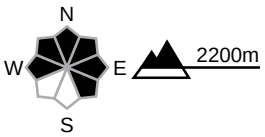
region C

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

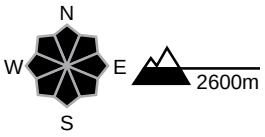


Danger description
As a consequence of a strong to storm force foehn wind, hard wind slabs formed since Tuesday in many cases. These are mostly shallow but in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can reach medium size.
The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain,, also at a distance from ridgelines. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

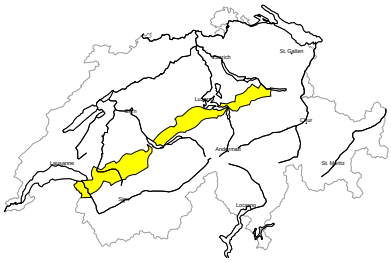


Danger description
In particular on steep grassy slopes occasionally large gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

Avalanche bulletin through Thursday, 28. March 2024

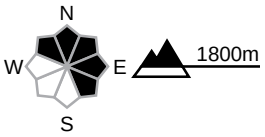
region D

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



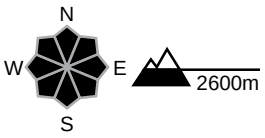
Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. Avalanches are rather small. Careful route selection is important.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

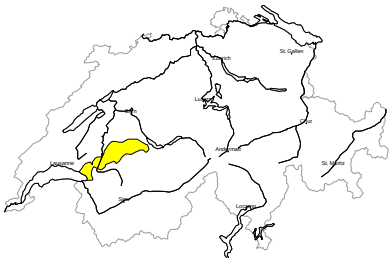


Danger description

In particular on steep grassy slopes occasionally large gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

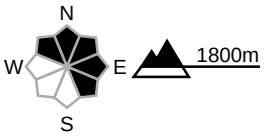
region E

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in gullies and bowls. Avalanches are rather small. Careful route selection is important.

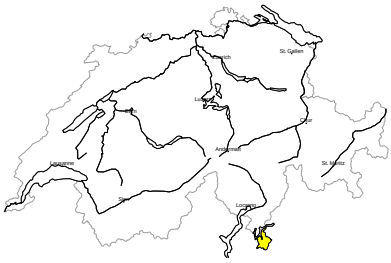
Low (1)

Gliding snow

Individual gliding avalanches are possible, especially on steep grassy slopes. These can in some cases reach medium size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

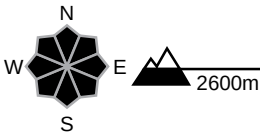
Avalanche bulletin through Thursday, 28. March 2024

region F — Moderate (2)



Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In particular on steep grassy slopes occasionally large gliding avalanches are possible. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

region G — Low (1)

Gliding snow

Individual gliding avalanches are possible, especially on steep grassy slopes. These can in some cases reach medium size. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 27.3.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

Along the Main Alpine Ridge and south of this, there has been a lot of new snow which the southerly winds have caused to drift in large quantities. Large wind slabs have formed there, even at a distance from ridgelines. These are slowly stabilising. In the north, the storm-force southerly winds and the foehn winds have caused the loose snow to drift. Some ridges and surfaces adjacent to ridgelines have been blown completely clear. The wind slabs are mostly medium-sized to large and prone to triggering. In some regions, they were covered with new snow on Wednesday afternoon, making them difficult to spot.
Deep layers of the snowpack are compact in many places and for the most part do not contain distinct weak layers. In the past week, the old snowpack was soaked up to approximately 3000 m on south-facing slopes, up to 2000-2500 m on east- and west-facing slopes, and up to approximately 1800-2000 m on north-facing slopes.
Gliding avalanches are still possible, primarily on east-, south- and west-facing slopes below approximately 2600 m and on north-facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. These may be large.

Weather review for Wednesday, 27.03.2024

There was widespread snowfall; this was heavy in the south. The snowfall level was between 1800 m in the north and 1300 m in the south. In the Alpine valleys of Ticino, it snowed down to low altitudes during periods of heavier precipitation.

New snow
From Tuesday afternoon to Wednesday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow fell above approximately 1500 m:
- Main Alpine Ridge from the Monte Rosa region to the Bernina Pass and south of this: 40 to 60 cm, and locally up to 80 cm;
- neighbouring regions to the north and the rest of the Main Alpine Ridge: 20 to 40 cm;
- rest of Valais, rest of central Grisons, rest of Upper Engadine: 10 to 20 cm;
- towards the north: widely a few centimetres.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -3 °C in the southwest and +3 °C in the northeast.

Wind
- There were strong to storm-force and in the afternoon moderate winds, blowing from the south.
- There were strong to storm-force foehn winds in the Alpine valleys of the north until midday.

Weather forecast until Thursday, 28.03.2024

In the north, it will initially be cloudy after a night which will be clear at times, and there will be some precipitation. It will become increasingly sunny from the west in the afternoon. In the south, it will be cloudy all day and there will widely be some precipitation. The snowfall level will be between approximately 1000 m in the north and 1300 m in the south.

New snow
From Wednesday afternoon to Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of fresh snow are anticipated above approximately 1500 m:
- extreme west of Lower Valais, Main Alpine Ridge from the Furka Pass to the Bernina Pass: 15 to 20 cm;
- elsewhere: widely 5 to 15 cm; a few centimetres in Grisons.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around -4 °C.

Wind
- There will be mostly strong southwesterly winds.
- There will be strong foehn winds during the night in the Alpine valleys of the north.

Avalanche bulletin through Thursday, 28. March 2024

Trend until Holy Saturday, 30.03.2024

It will be cloudy in the south on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, and especially in Ticino there will be a lot of precipitation, with this being heavy on Saturday. Along the Main Alpine Ridge from the Monte Rosa region to the San Bernardino Pass and south of this, 40 to 60 cm of snow is to be expected by Saturday afternoon. Up to 30 cm of snow will fall in neighbouring regions to the north and along the rest of the Main Alpine Ridge. The snowfall level will mostly be around 2000 m, or even lower in the event of heavy showers. It will be sunny at times in the north on both days. In the north, there will be strong to storm-force southwesterly winds, and storm-force foehn winds in the Alpine valleys. In the south, there will be mostly strong southerly winds.
The avalanche danger will increase significantly again in the south. Level 4 may be reached on Saturday along the Main Alpine Ridge in Upper Valais and south of this. With the increase in the snowfall level, more wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected below 2200 m. In the north, the danger of dry avalanches will not change significantly. Gliding avalanches will still be possible.