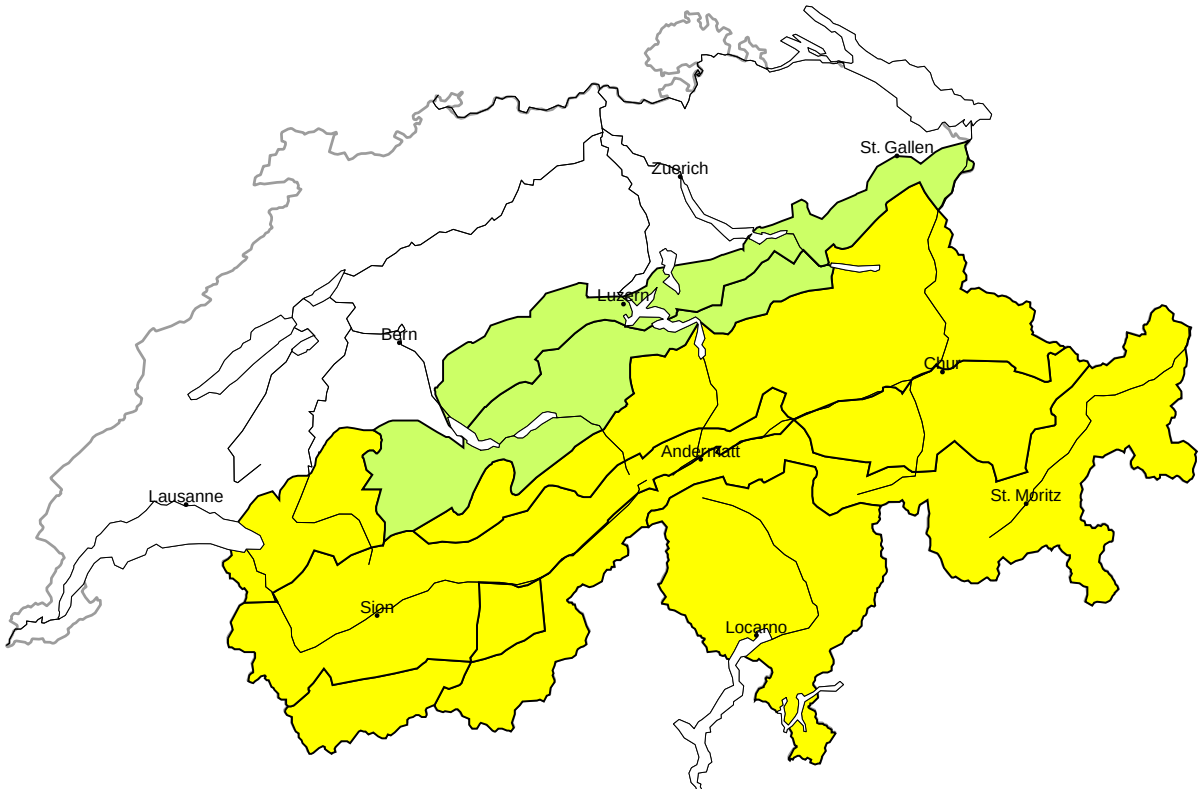
Avalanche bulletin for Wednesday, 26. March 2025

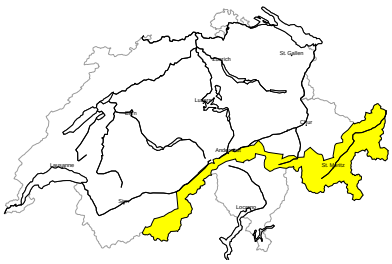
Avalanche danger

updated on 26.3.2025, 08:00



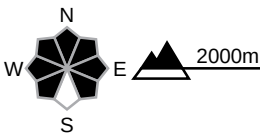
region A

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Sunshine and high temperatures will give rise to a loss of strength within the snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow. They can reach medium size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for defensive route selection.

As a consequence of northerly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies especially on steep shady slopes below approximately 2200 m, as well as on steep sunny slopes below approximately 2800 m. Backcountry tours and ascents to alpine cabins should be concluded timely.

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

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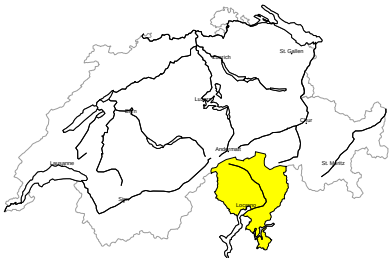
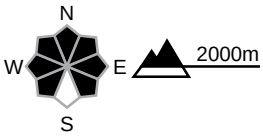
region B



Moderate (2+)

New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

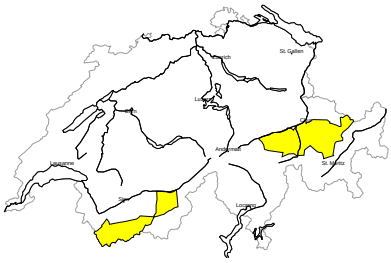
The new snow of last week is in some cases still prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches in isolated cases. Avalanches can in very isolated cases penetrate deep layers and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in little used backcountry terrain and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Backcountry touring calls for defensive route selection. As a consequence of northerly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies especially on steep shady slopes below approximately 2200 m, as well as on steep sunny slopes below approximately 2800 m. Backcountry tours and ascents to alpine cabins should be concluded timely.

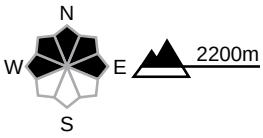
region C



Moderate (2=)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases still prone to triggering. They are mostly only small. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are barely recognisable.
Defensive route selection is advisable.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies especially on steep shady slopes below approximately 2200 m, as well as on steep sunny slopes below approximately 2800 m. Backcountry tours and ascents to alpine cabins should be concluded timely.

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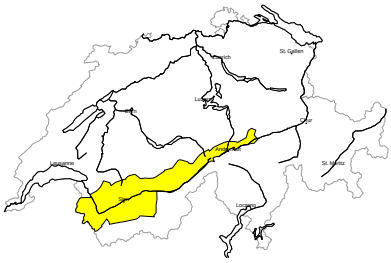
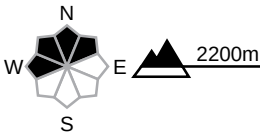
region D



Moderate (2-)

No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The avalanche conditions are generally favourable. Dry avalanches can in very isolated cases be released in near-surface layers. They can reach medium size. Fresh wind slabs are only small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence 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.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

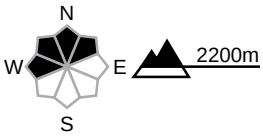
As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies especially on steep shady slopes below approximately 2200 m, as well as on steep sunny slopes below approximately 2800 m. Backcountry tours and ascents to alpine cabins should be concluded timely.

region E

Moderate (2-)

No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The avalanche conditions are generally favourable. Dry avalanches can in very isolated cases be released in near-surface layers. They can reach medium size. Fresh wind slabs are only small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence 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.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

On very steep grassy slopes individual gliding avalanches are possible, in particular medium-sized ones. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

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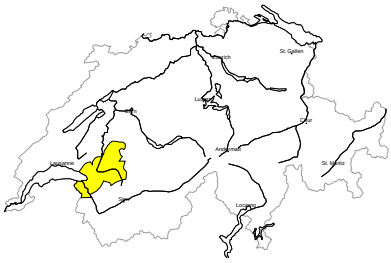
region F

Moderate (2)



Wet snow, Gliding snow

As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are possible. This applies especially on steep shady slopes below approximately 2200 m, as well as on steep sunny slopes below approximately 2800 m. Backcountry tours and ascents to alpine cabins should be concluded timely.

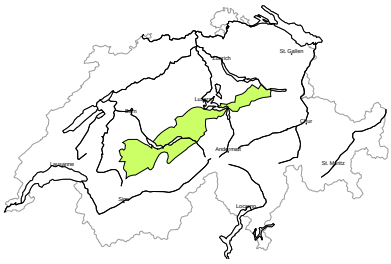
Low (1)

No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain.
Even a small avalanche can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region G

Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain.
Even a small avalanche can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

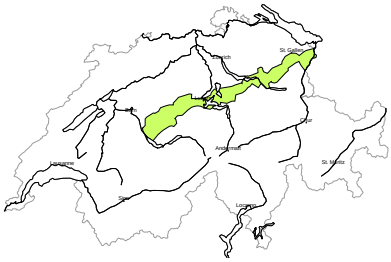
Low (1)

Gliding snow

On very steep grassy slopes individual gliding avalanches are possible, in particular medium-sized ones. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region H

Low (1)



Gliding snow

On very steep grassy slopes individual gliding avalanches are possible, in particular medium-sized ones. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 25.3.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

In the north, the snowpack is quite favourable.
In southern Valais and Grisons, the old snowpack is faceted and is prone to triggering in places. Especially in the Monte Rosa region, on the eastern part of the main Alpine ridge and in the Upper Engadine, avalanches were triggered last weekend in the old snowpack or at the transition to the old snowpack.
In Ticino, the weak layers in the old snowpack are now so heavily covered that only isolated avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack. With increasing northerly winds, snowdrift accumulations that are prone to triggering are developing locally in the south.
The snowpack is water-saturated on southern slopes up into high Alpine regions, as well as on western and eastern slopes below approximately 2000 to 2200 m. On northern slopes moistening is only superficial. In the last few days, several wet and gliding avalanches, some of the latter large, have been triggered. A combination of sometimes declining outgoing longwave radiation, and daytime irradiation with higher temperatures means that gliding and wet avalanches are still possible.

Weather review for Tuesday

The north saw cloudy conditions with bright intervals and localised showers. The snowfall level was around 1400 to 1700 m. In Valais and the south, conditions were mainly sunny with cumulus clouds and isolated showers developing over the course of the day.

Fresh snow
Above approximately 2000 m, a few centimetres locally

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the north and +3 °C in the south.

Wind
Light to moderate northeasterly

Weather forecast to Wednesday

In the north and east there will be heavy cloud with light precipitation. The snowfall level will be around 1500 m. In Valais there will be sunny intervals, while in the south it will be mainly sunny, with cumulus clouds developing over the course of the day.

Fresh snow
The following amounts fall above around 1800 m:
- a few centimetres in the north and east; up to 10 cm on the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Alps to Liechtenstein

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the north and +3 °C in the south

Wind
Northerly to northeasterly:
- initially light to moderate, freshening at higher altitudes over the course of the day but mostly remaining moderate
- moderate foehn wind from the north on the southern flank of the Alps in the afternoon

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Outlook

Thursday
Overnight there will be moderate to strong northeasterly winds at high altitudes. Low stratus clouds will remain into the morning on the northern flanks of the Alps, but elsewhere Thursday will be mainly sunny. Temperatures will get a little milder.
Fresh drifted snow will somewhat increase the risk of dry avalanches at high altitudes. Wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected over the course of the day. Touring and off-piste descents should be completed in good time.

Friday
After a mostly clear night, conditions will be mainly sunny with cumulus clouds developing over the course of the day. Winds will be light to moderate and will shift to the northwest. The risk of dry avalanches will slowly decrease. Wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected over the course of the day. Touring and off-piste descents should be completed in good time.