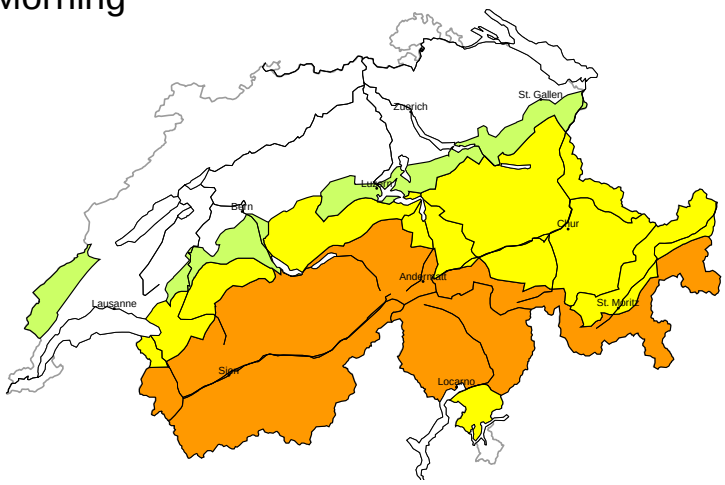
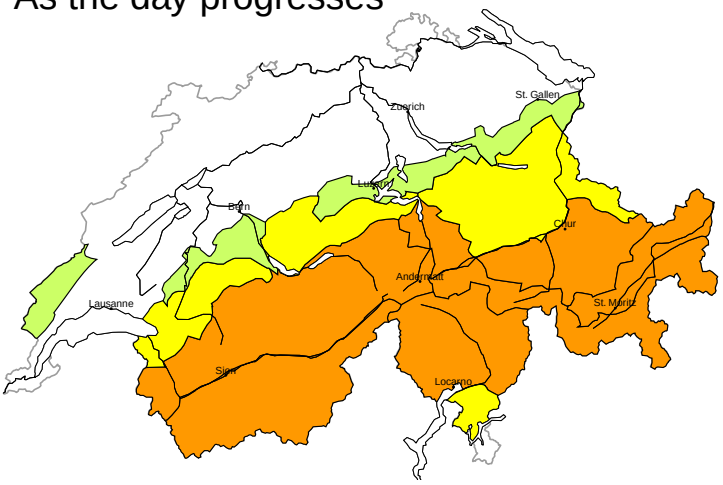
Avalanche danger

updated on 18.4.2025, 17:00

Morning



As the day progresses

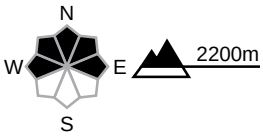


region A

Considerable (3=) Dry avalanches, whole day

New snow, Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. As a consequence of a gathering strong southerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form in the course of the day at elevated altitudes. These are to be bypassed as far as possible.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

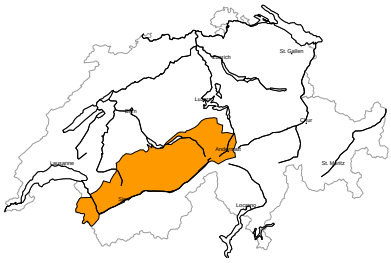
Considerable (3) Wet-snow and gliding avalanches, as the day

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night will be good. The weather will be mild. As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected, even large ones. Caution is to be exercised in particular on sunny slopes below approximately 3000 m, and on shady slopes below approximately 2400 m. Also at intermediate altitudes medium-sized gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be started early and concluded timely.

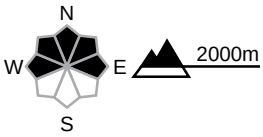
region B

Considerable (3-) Dry avalanches, whole day



New snow, Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. As a consequence of a gathering strong southerly foehn wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form in the course of the day. These are to be bypassed as far as possible.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

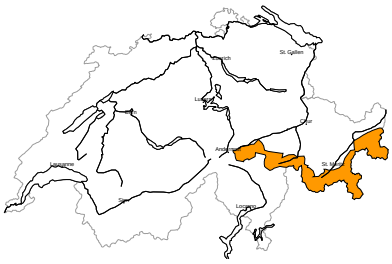
Considerable (3) Wet-snow and gliding avalanches, as the day

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night will be good. The weather will be mild. As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected, even large ones. Caution is to be exercised in particular on sunny slopes below approximately 3000 m, and on shady slopes below approximately 2400 m. Also at intermediate altitudes medium-sized gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be started early and concluded timely.

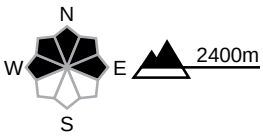
region C

Considerable (3-) Dry avalanches, whole day



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering. Dry avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Considerable (3) Wet-snow and gliding avalanches, as the day

Wet snow, Gliding snow

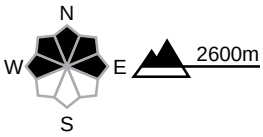
Outgoing longwave radiation during the night will be quite good. The weather will be mild. As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected. Moist avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow by people. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 3000 m, and on north facing slopes below approximately 2400 m. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be started early and concluded timely.

region D

Considerable (3-) Dry avalanches

New snow, Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including large ones. As a consequence of a gathering strong southerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form in the course of the day in particular on the Main Alpine Ridge. These are to be bypassed as far as possible. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2) Wet-snow and gliding avalanches

Wet snow, Gliding snow

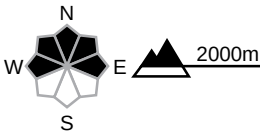
Outgoing longwave radiation during the night will be barely evident. Wet and gliding avalanches are possible, even large ones in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular below approximately 2400 m.

region E

Moderate (2=) Dry avalanches, whole day

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong southerly wind, wind slabs will form in the course of the day at elevated altitudes. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain.
Careful route selection is recommended.

Considerable (3) Wet-snow and gliding avalanches, as the day

Wet snow, Gliding snow

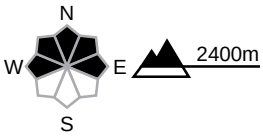
Outgoing longwave radiation during the night will be good. The weather will be mild. As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected, even large ones. Caution is to be exercised in particular on sunny slopes below approximately 3000 m, and on shady slopes below approximately 2400 m. Also at intermediate altitudes medium-sized gliding avalanches are to be expected as a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be started early and concluded timely.

region F

Moderate (2-) Dry avalanches, whole day

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

In isolated cases dry avalanches can be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep shady slopes in little used backcountry terrain. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are difficult to recognise. Careful route selection is recommended.
In addition the more recent wind slabs should be taken into account. These are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering.

Considerable (3) Wet-snow and gliding avalanches, as the day

Wet snow, Gliding snow

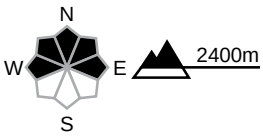
Outgoing longwave radiation during the night will be quite good. The weather will be mild. As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected. Moist avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow by people. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 3000 m, and on north facing slopes below approximately 2400 m. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be started early and concluded timely.

region G

Moderate (2+) Dry avalanches, whole day

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs are prone to triggering. They can be released by people.
Additionally in isolated cases dry avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. This applies in particular on very steep shady slopes in little used backcountry terrain.
Backcountry touring calls for defensive route selection.

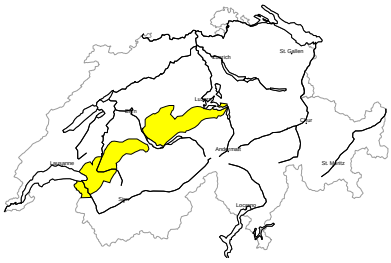
Considerable (3) Wet-snow and gliding avalanches, as the day

Wet snow, Gliding snow

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night will be quite good. The weather will be mild. As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected. Moist avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow by people. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 3000 m, and on north facing slopes below approximately 2400 m. Backcountry tours, off-piste skiing and ascents to alpine cabins should be started early and concluded timely.

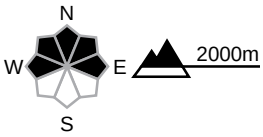
region H

Moderate (2=) Dry avalanches, whole day



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
As a consequence of a sometimes strong southerly wind, wind slabs will form in the course of the day at elevated altitudes. Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain.
Careful route selection is recommended.

Moderate (2) Wet-snow avalanches, as the day progresses

Wet snow

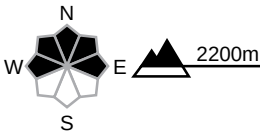
Outgoing longwave radiation during the night will be good. The weather will be mild. As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation wet and gliding avalanches are possible, even medium-sized ones. Backcountry tours should be concluded timely.

region I

Moderate (2-) Dry avalanches, whole day

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
As a consequence of a gathering strong southerly wind, wind slabs will form in the course of the day at elevated altitudes. These are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence 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.

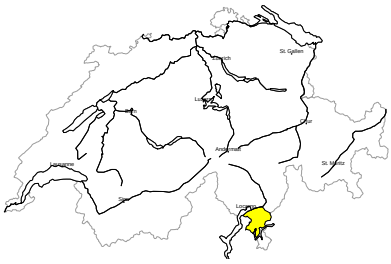
Moderate (2) Wet-snow avalanches, as the day progresses

Wet snow

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night will be good. The weather will be mild. As a consequence of warming during the day and solar radiation wet and gliding avalanches are possible, even medium-sized ones. Backcountry tours should be concluded timely.

region J

Moderate (2)

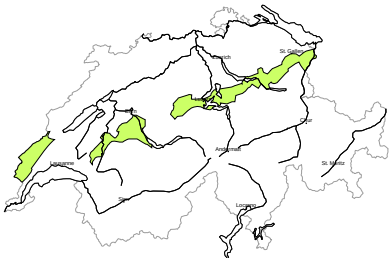


Wet snow, Gliding snow

Outgoing longwave radiation during the night will be barely evident. Wet and gliding avalanches are possible, even large ones in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in particular below approximately 2400 m.

region K

Low (1)



Wet snow

Wet snow slides and avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small. Even a small avalanche can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 18.4.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

The large amount of new snow in the west and south this week is increasingly settling and consolidating. Near-surface layers are still prone to triggering in some places. In addition, increasing southerly winds on Sunday will produce snowdrift accumulations that can easily be triggered by people. In the inneralpine regions of Grisons in particular, where there has been only little fresh snow, weak layers in the old snowpack are still sometimes prone to triggering.
The old snowpack is water-saturated on southern slopes in the high alpine regions and on eastern and western slopes up to around 2800 m. On northern slopes, most of the old snowpack is water-saturated up to around 2400 m. At intermediate altitudes, the fresh snow fell widely on snowless ground. As a consequence of warming and solar radiation, wet and gliding avalanches are to be expected, in the fresh snow areas also at medium altitudes. These can become large in the main precipitation areas.

Weather review for Friday

There was continued little but widespread precipitation during the night into Friday. The snowfall level was 1200 to 1400 m in the north and Valais, and 1800 to 2000 m in the south and the Engadine.
During the day, it was mostly sunny in the west and south at high altitudes. In the east, it was initially cloudy but sunny at times during the course of the day.

Fresh snow
During the night into Friday, 5 to 10 cm of snow fell over a wide area, with up to 20 cm in southern Valais.
From Tuesday until Thursday night into Friday, the following amounts fell above approximately 2000 m in the west and above approximately 2600 m in the south:

- Upper Valais and the neighbouring Bernese Oberland to the north: 150 to 180 cm, and up to over 200 cm from the Saas valley via the Simplon region to Binntal
- Western Lower Valais, rest of the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, western Gotthard region, Val Bedretto, Valle Maggia: 70 to 150 cm.
- Further east: mostly less than 30 cm, largely dry in the northeast

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

Wind
Light to moderate from westerly directions

Weather forecast to Saturday

It will be overcast in the south and a few centimetres of snow will fall above approximately 2000 m. In the north, it will be quite sunny and milder again after a mostly clear night.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature

- Rising in the north, reaching +7 °C at midday at 2000 m, with the zero-degree level rising to around 3000 m
- +2 °C in the south

Wind

- Light to moderate during the night, with moderate to strong winds from southwest to south at high altitudes during the day
- Increasingly strong southerly foehn wind in the foehn valleys of the north

Avalanche bulletin through Saturday, 19. April 2025

Outlook

On Sunday, there will be sunny intervals in the north while there will be heavy cloud with precipitation in the south. The snowfall level will be around 1900 m. On the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge in Valais and in western Ticino, 20 to 40 cm of snow is expected to fall at high altitudes. There will be a moderate to strong southerly wind. The avalanche danger will increase slightly in the south with the new fallen snow and also in the north due to fresh snowdrifts. The risk of wet and gliding avalanches will be subject to daytime changes, especially in the north. On the Main Alpine Ridge in Valais, more wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected due to the rain at intermediate altitudes.
On Monday, it will be mostly sunny in the west and sunny at times in the east. In the south, a little snow will continue to fall above approximately 2000 m. The wind will ease and be light to moderate, blowing from the south. The risk of dry avalanches will decrease. Wet and gliding avalanches are still to be expected, especially in the north and in Valais.