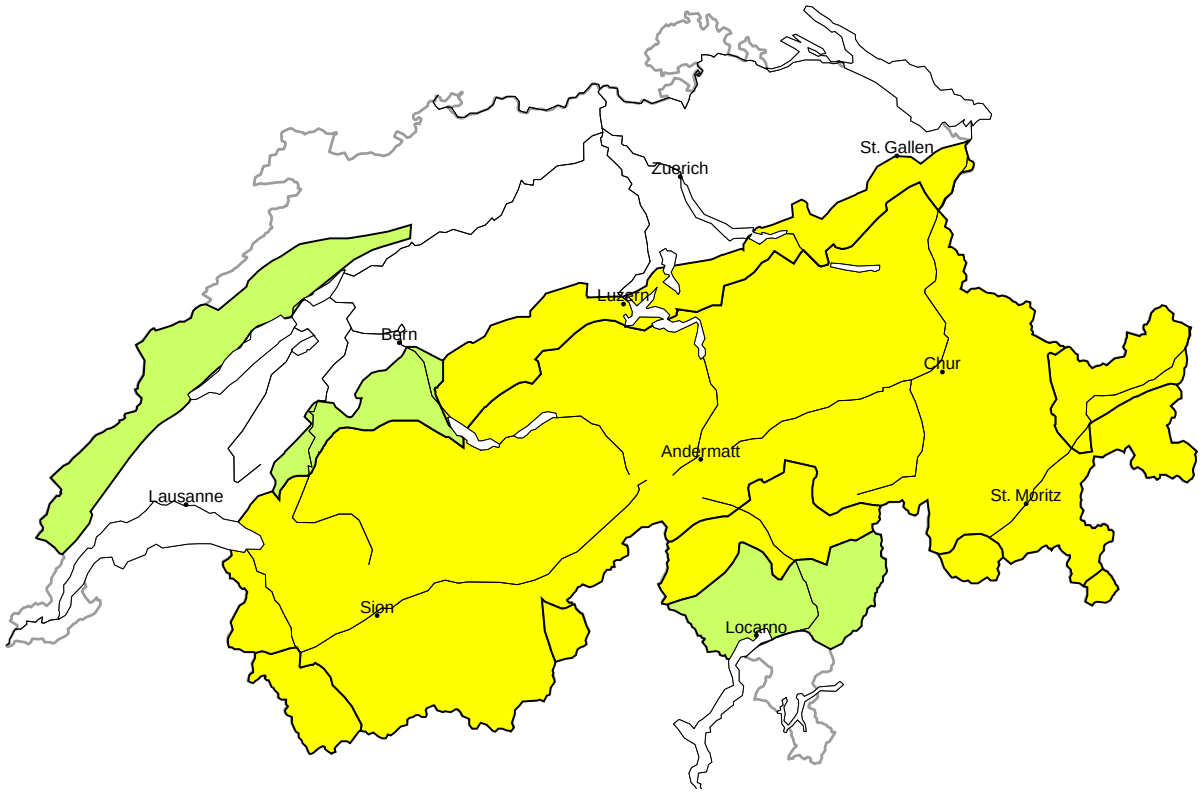
Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 26. December 2023

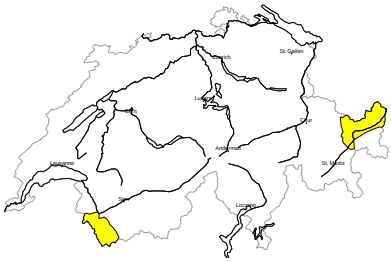
Avalanche danger

updated on 26.12.2023, 08:00



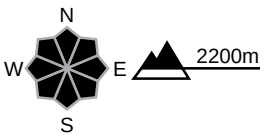
region A

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



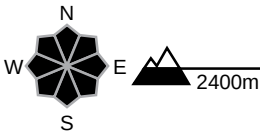
Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days are in some cases still prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released by people. They can reach large size. This applies in particular on very steep north and east facing slopes. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

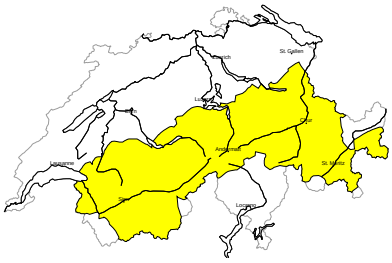
On very steep grassy slopes more gliding avalanches are possible, even large ones. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m and on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

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

Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 26. December 2023

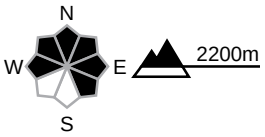
region B

Moderate (2=)



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



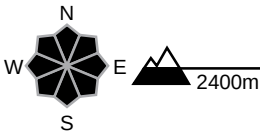
Danger description

Avalanches can in some cases be released in near-surface layers. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, when entering gullies and bowls for example and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Avalanches can reach large size in isolated cases in particular in places that are protected from the wind.
Meticulous route selection is required.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

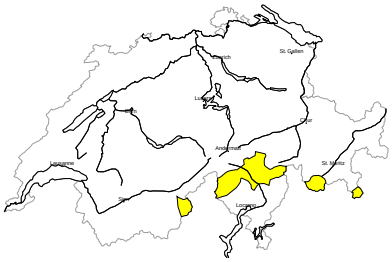


Danger description

On very steep grassy slopes more gliding avalanches are possible, even large ones. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2400 m and on north facing slopes below approximately 2000 m. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

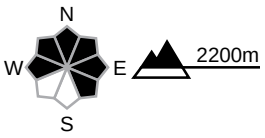
region C

Moderate (2-)



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

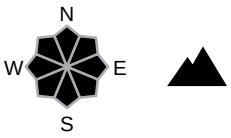
The wind slabs of last week can be released in some cases. This applies in particular at their margins. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. In very isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size. Careful route selection is advisable.

region D

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



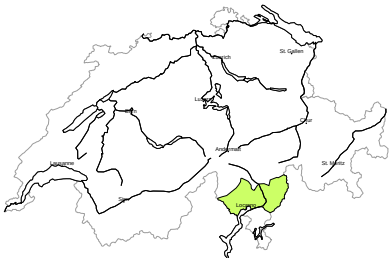
Danger description

On very steep grassy slopes more gliding avalanches are possible, even large ones. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 26. December 2023

region E

Low (1)

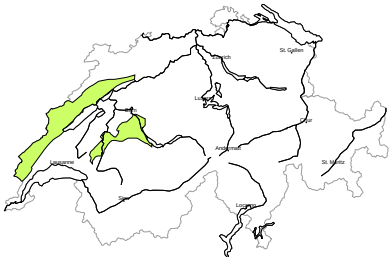


No distinct avalanche problem

Only a little snow is lying.
 Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region F

Low (1)



Gliding snow

Only a little snow is lying.
 On very steep grassy slopes more gliding avalanches are possible, but they will be mostly small. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 25.12.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

The snowpack is characterised by stormy weather, warmth and sometimes rain: Windward locations such as peaks, ridgelines and crests are often blown off down to the ground, or the crusts from November are blown off. There are large, often compact and hard wind slabs (accumulations of snow) at a distance from ridgelines. The surface of the snowpack is also often brittle. The snowpack structure is generally favourable. Exceptions are, on the one hand, slopes that are highly protected from the wind, where new snow and snowdrift from the past week are lying on top of a loose surface of old snow with faceted grains and, on the other hand, weak layers around the crusts from November, where these are only thinly covered. Dry slab avalanches, which may become larger, are most likely to be released in these areas.As a consequence of daytime warming and incoming radiation, moist snow slides from the rocks are possible on steep south-facing slopes. The activity of gliding avalanches is increasing, especially on steep south-facing slopes. However, these are also possible in the other aspects.

Weather review for Christmas, 25.12.2023

Some precipitation fell during Sunday night at the northern flank of the Alps and in the northern parts of Grisons. The snowfall level climbed to around 2600 m in Grisons and to around 2200 m at the northern flank of the Alps. It was mostly sunny during the day.

New fallen snow
The following amounts of new snow fell above approximately 2800 m:
- Urn Alps and Glarus Alps, northern Grisons, northern Lower Engadine: 5 to 10 cm;
- elsewhere less, or it remained dry.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +5 °C in the north and +8 °C in the south.

Wind
The wind blew from a westerly direction:
- moderate to strong in the Jura and at the northern flank of the Alps, dropping away somewhat as the day progressed;
- otherwise light to moderate.

Weather forecast until Tuesday, 26.12.2023

During the night and in the late morning there will be occasional thick clouds; in the afternoon it will be mostly sunny.

New fallen snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between +5 °C in the west and south and +2 °C in the east.

Wind
The wind will blow from a westerly direction:
- moderate to strong at the northern flank of the Alps at high altitudes and generally in the high Alpine regions;
- weak to moderate in other regions.

Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 26. December 2023

Trend until Thursday, 28.12.2023

Wednesday

After a clear night, it will be sunny and very mild, with a zero-degree level around 3300 m. Moderate and strong winds will blow from the southwest, and in the alpine valleys of the northern flank of the Alps there will be foehn weather.The danger of dry avalanches will continue to decrease. Gliding avalanches are still expected, with even large ones anticipated in regions with a lot of snow.

Thursday

At the northern flanks of the Alps and in Valais it will be increasingly cloudy with little precipitation as the day progresses. In the east and south, it will be partially cloudy and probably dry. It will be appreciably less mild, with a temperature of 0 °C at 2000 m.The danger of dry avalanches will continue to decrease. Gliding avalanches are still expected, with even large ones anticipated in regions with a lot of snow.