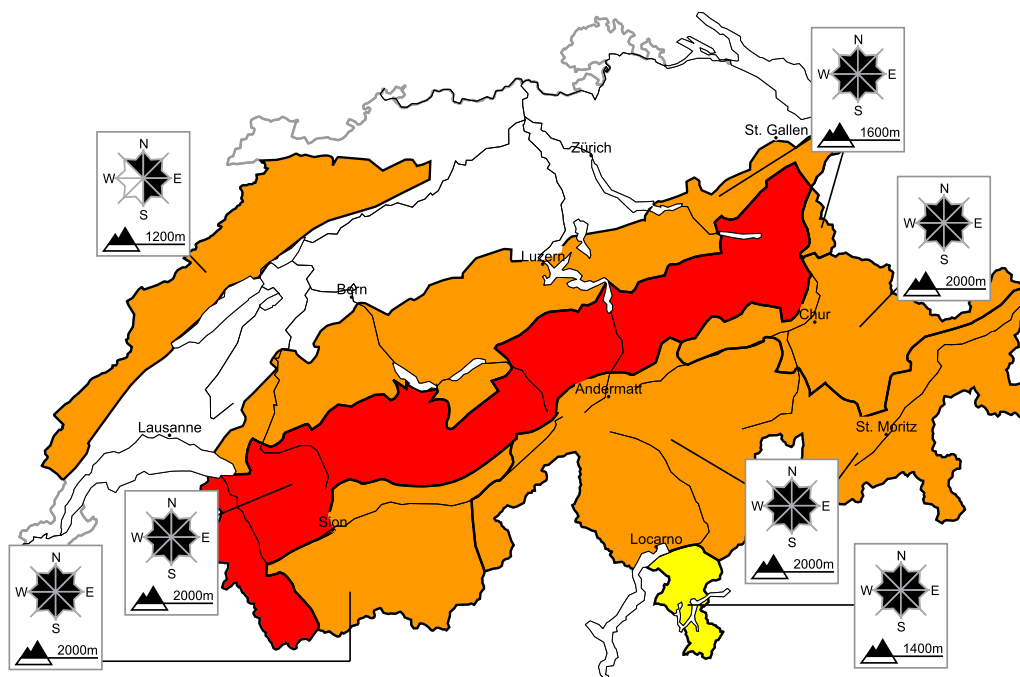


# In the west and in the north a very critical avalanche situation will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 11.12.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 11.12.2021, 17:00

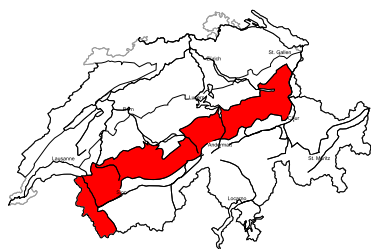
## Avalanche danger

updated on 11.12.2021, 08:00



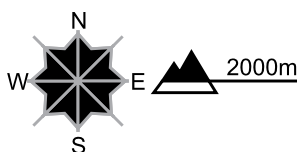
region A

Level 4, high



### New snow, old snow

#### Avalanche prone locations



#### Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a moderate to strong northwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. These are prone to triggering. Natural avalanches are to be expected.

Avalanches can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach very large size. This applies especially on west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2000 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered occasionally.

Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for very extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and great restraint.

### Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible. Slides can occur on cut slopes.

Danger levels

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

5 very high



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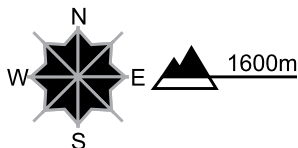
region B

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

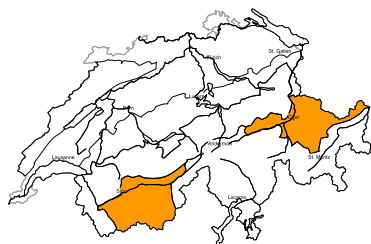
As a consequence of new snow and a moderate northwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including dangerously large ones. Natural avalanches are to be expected. They can reach large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible. Slides can occur on cut slopes.

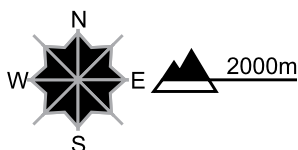
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, new snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs can be released by a single winter sport participant. Distinct weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack in particular on steep west, north and east facing slopes. Avalanches can be released easily. Remotely triggered and natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Avalanches can reach dangerously large size. Defensive route selection is advisable.

Gliding avalanches

Below approximately 2000 m small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible.



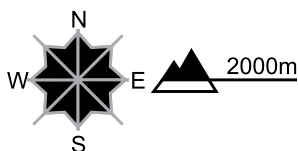
**region D**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

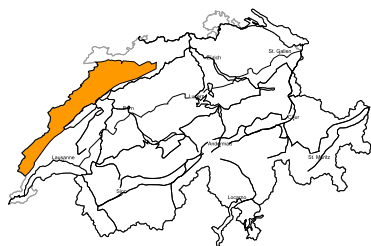
As a consequence of a strong wind from northerly directions, further wind slabs will form. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases.

Avalanches can in some places be released in the weakly bonded old snow also, especially in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. They can reach large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

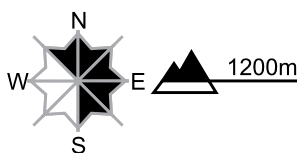
**region E**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of new snow and a moderate to strong westerly wind, further wind slabs formed. They are in some cases quite large and prone to triggering. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind-loaded slopes and in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain.

Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

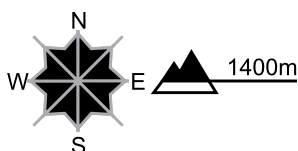
**region F**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

As a consequence of a moderate to strong northerly wind, further wind slabs will form. In addition the older wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases still. Mostly the avalanches are small but in some cases easily released. The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 10.12.2021, 17:00

### Snowpack

In the lower part of the snowpack, weak layers with expansively metamorphosed (faceted) crystals are evident on west-facing, north-facing and east-facing slopes above approximately 2200 m in nearly all regions of Switzerland. From central Valais as far as Grisons as well as generally in spots where the snow cover is shallow, the snowpack layering is most unfavourable. In the western part of Lower Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, the weak old snowpack is frequently overlain with thick fresher layers. In general, avalanches can most easily be triggered in spots where the snowpack is shallow.

As a result of strong to storm-strength winds, from southerly directions to start with, subsequently from northerly to northwesterly, a great deal of snow was transported on Friday and will continue to be transported on Saturday as well. Wide-ranging snowdrift accumulations are expected which will be easily prone to triggering in some places.

### Observed weather on Friday, 10.12.2021

Following a brief phase of clear skies on Thursday night, a new round of snowfall set in during the early morning hours of Friday in the western regions. The precipitation spread to the southern and the eastern regions during the later morning hours on Friday.

#### Fresh snow

Between Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon:

- western and northern parts of Lower Valais, Vaud Alps: 20 to 40 cm;
- Jura region, remaining parts of northern flank of the Alps, remaining parts of Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm;
- remaining parts of Valais, Grisons, Ticino: only a few centimetres.

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -5 °C in the northern regions and -9 °C in the southern regions.

#### Wind

- Winds in the northern regions  
will be blowing at increasing strength from southerly directions on Thursday night, foehn wind is expected in the northern Alpine valleys;  
will gradually slacken off to moderate to strong velocity during the course of the day, blowing from westerly directions;
- winds in the southern regions  
will be light, blowing at moderate strength at high altitudes, from southerly directions.

## Weather forecast through Saturday, 11.12.2021

In the northern regions, skies will be heavily overcast and snowfall is anticipated which will be deposited as far down as low lying areas. In the furthestmost western regions and in central Valais, bright intervals are possible during the afternoon; on the southern flank of the Alps skies will be predominantly sunny.

### Fresh snow

Between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon:

- Jura region, furthestmost western part of Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps: 20 to 30 cm;
- remaining parts of Lower Valais: 10 to 20 cm;
- Upper Valais, northern and central Grisons: 5 to 15 cm;
- southern Grisons, less; on the southern flank of the Alps it will remain dry.

### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -9 °C in the northern regions and -5 °C in the southern regions.

### Wind

- In the northern regions,  
blowing at strong velocity from northwesterly directions during the nocturnal hours and the morning;  
slackening off during the course of the day, then shifting to northerly, but on the Main Alpine Ridge persisting at strong to storm strength until the afternoon.
- In the southern regions,  
blowing at moderate strength during the night, at strong velocity during the daytime, and at storm strength at high altitudes, from northerly directions.

## Outlook through Monday, 13.12.2021

### Sunday

Following a night of temporarily clear skies on Saturday night, skies in the northern regions will be overcast on Sunday; in the Valais and in the southern regions, predominantly sunny. Temperatures are expected to rise noticeably. The northerly winds will continue to blow at predominantly strong velocity at high altitudes and in the southern regions. In the western and the northern regions the danger of naturally triggered avalanches will decrease. For winter sports enthusiasts venturing beyond the secured ski slopes into backcountry terrain, the avalanche situation remains critical over widespread areas.

### Monday

Between Sunday and Monday in the eastern regions, a small amount of precipitation is anticipated. During the daytime on Monday it will be sunny. Temperatures are expected to rise further, by midday reaching -4 °C at 2000 m in the western and southern regions, and -2 °C in the eastern regions. Winds will be blowing at light to moderate strength from northerly directions during the daytime. As a result of significantly higher temperatures, the avalanche situation will remain critical to begin with.