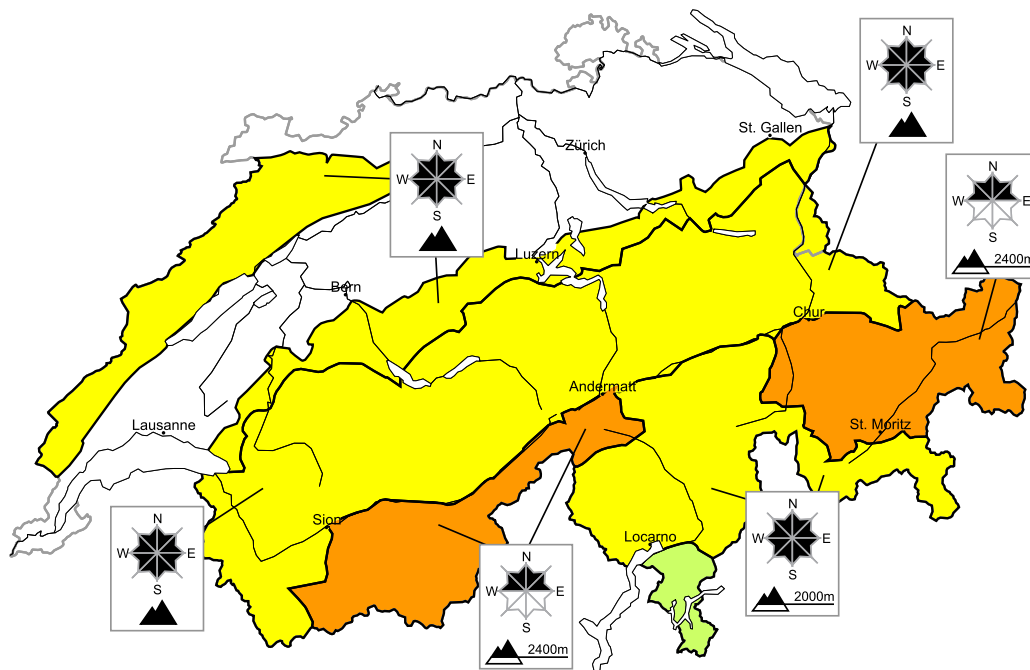


## Weakly bonded old snow and gliding snow require caution

Edition: 16.12.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 16.12.2021, 17:00

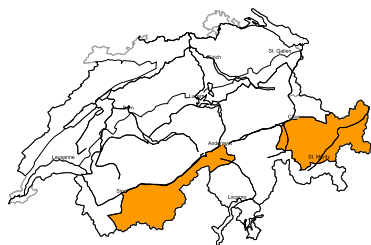
### Avalanche danger

updated on 16.12.2021, 08:00



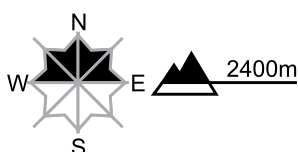
**region A**

**Level 3, considerable**



#### Old snow

##### Avalanche prone locations



##### Danger description

Faceted weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach dangerously large size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Defensive route selection is advisable.

#### Gliding avalanches

Small to medium-sized gliding avalanches are to be expected. This applies on sunny slopes below approximately 2400 m, and on shady slopes below approximately 2000 m.

**Danger levels**

1 low

2 moderate

3 consider.

4 high

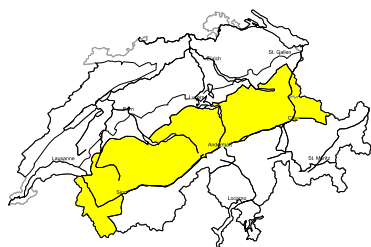
5 very high



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 Avalanche Research SLF  
 www.slf.ch

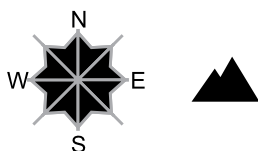
**region B**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Gliding avalanches**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

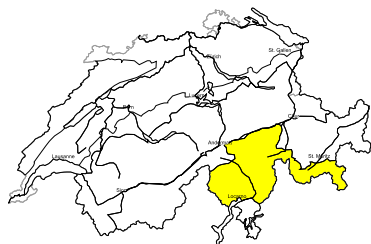
Gliding snow represents the main danger. In starting zones where no previous releases have taken place more medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are to be expected. This applies on sunny slopes below approximately 2400 m, and on shady slopes below approximately 2000 m. Gliding avalanches can also be released in the morning. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

**Dry avalanches: no distinct avalanche problem**

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular on shady slopes above approximately 2200 m. Avalanches can in isolated cases be released by people, especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack. Meticulous route selection is recommended.

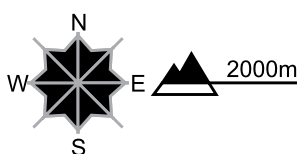
**region C**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

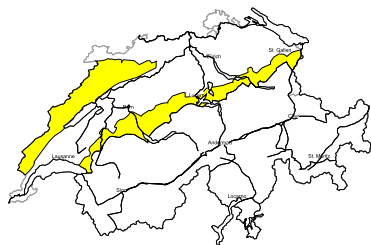
At elevated altitudes mostly small wind slabs formed. The fresh and older wind slabs are in some cases still prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence. Avalanches can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. Careful route selection is recommended.

**Wet avalanches as day progresses**

In particular on very steep sunny slopes mostly small moist snow slides and avalanches are possible.

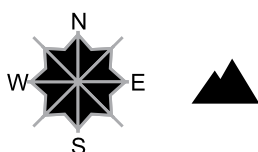
**region D**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Gliding avalanches**

**Avalanche prone locations**

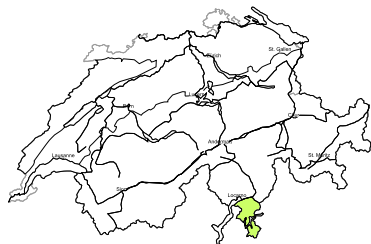


**Danger description**

Small to medium-sized gliding avalanches and wet snow slides are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

## region E

## Level 1, low

**No distinct avalanche problem**

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular on shady slopes above approximately 2000 m. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 15.12.2021, 17:00

### Snowpack

Weak layers exist near the base of the snowpack in particular on west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2200 m. In western Lower Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, these near-ground layers are mostly embedded so deep that the probability of avalanches being released by people is rather small. From central Valais through Ticino to Grisons and generally in places with shallow snow cover, the bonding of the snowpack is least favourable, and people can still release avalanches in the old snowpack.

Gliding avalanche activity is high. Further gliding avalanches originating on steep grassy slopes that have retained the snow thus far are to be expected in the coming days as well. They can be released at any time of day or night. In the western and northern regions with a lot of snow, these can reach a large size in some cases.

On steep south facing slopes, the surface of the snowpack will become moist because of its exposure to warming and radiation during the day. Here, the clear skies on Wednesday night will give rise to a melt-freeze crust on the surface of the snowpack.

### Observed weather on Wednesday, 15.12.2021

On Wednesday in the mountains it was fairly sunny, apart from some cirrostratus cloud.

#### Fresh snow

-

#### Temperature

- At midday at 2000 m: between +6 °C in the west and south, and +2 °C in the east
- The zero degree level was above approximately 3000 m in the west and between approximately 2200 and 2500 m in the east.

#### Wind

Light to moderate from the north to northeast

### Weather forecast through Thursday, 16.12.2021

After a clear night, it will be sunny in the mountains.

#### Fresh snow

-

#### Temperature

- At midday at 2000 m: between +7 °C in the west and +3 °C in the east
- The zero degree level will slowly drop back below 3000 m in the west, but remain between approximately 2200 and 2500 m in the east

#### Wind

- At 2000 m light to moderate from the northeast, in Ticino a moderate north foehn
- At 3000 m moderate to strong from the northeast

### Outlook through Saturday, 18.12.2021

In the mountains each of the coming days will be mostly sunny and mild. The wind will be mostly light to moderate from the north to east. The bise wind will strengthen on Saturday.

The danger of dry avalanches will continue to decrease slowly. In particular in the inneralpine regions where there is no conspicuous avalanche problem, avalanches can still be released by people. The danger of gliding avalanches will persist. The danger of moist avalanches will increase during each of the coming days on very steep sunny slopes.