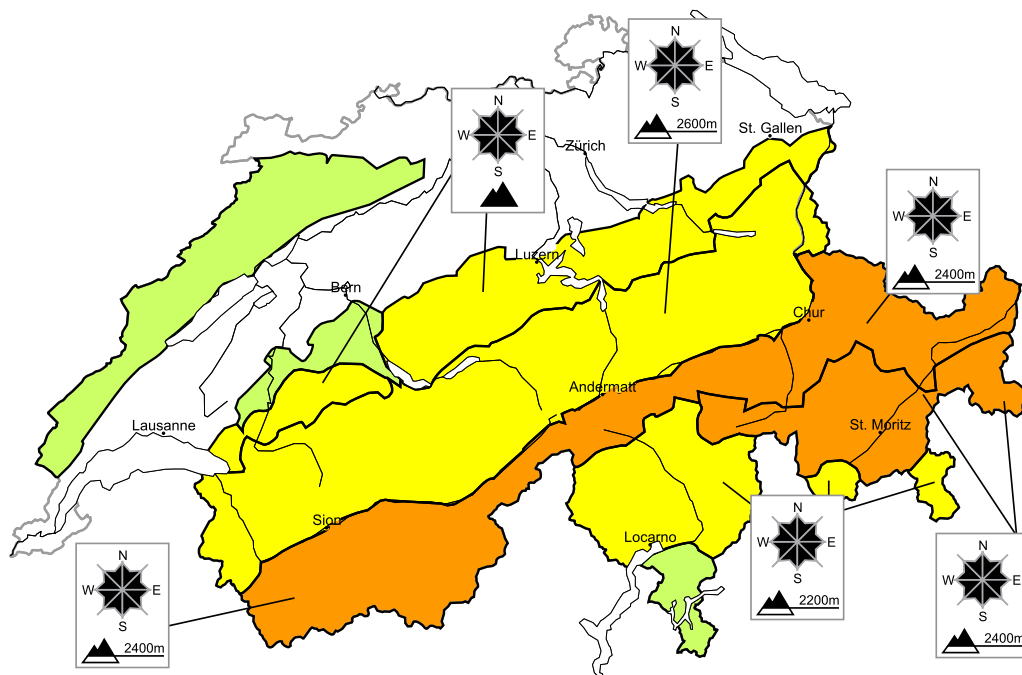


## Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered in some regions

Edition: 31.12.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 31.12.2021, 17:00

### Avalanche danger

updated on 31.12.2021, 08:00



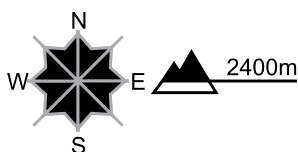
#### region A

#### Level 3, considerable



#### New snow, old snow

##### Avalanche prone locations



##### Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days can be released by a single winter sport participant. Weak layers exist in the bottom section of the snowpack, especially on steep north facing slopes. Avalanches can in some cases penetrate deep layers and reach dangerously large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

#### Wet avalanches as day progresses

In particular on steep south facing slopes wet snow slides and avalanches are possible.

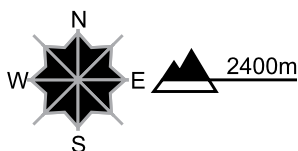
**region B**

**Level 3, considerable**



**Wind slabs, old snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

In the last few days wind slabs formed. These are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. The wind slabs can be released easily. They are to be avoided in steep terrain.

Additionally avalanches can be released in deep layers and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. They are to be found especially on very steep shady slopes and on south facing slopes above approximately 2800 m. In particular areas where the snow cover is rather shallow are especially unfavourable. Defensive route selection is required.

**Wet avalanches as day progresses**

In particular on steep south facing slopes wet snow slides and avalanches are possible.

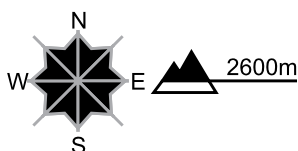
**region C**

**Level 2, moderate**



**New snow**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

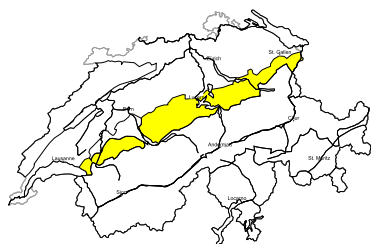
The weather conditions will bring about a substantial strengthening of the snowpack. The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days can be released in isolated cases, but mostly only by large additional loads. In high Alpine regions the avalanche prone locations are a little more prevalent. Careful route selection is advisable.

**Wet avalanches as day progresses**

In all aspects medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2500 m. In addition as the day progresses on south facing slopes, wet snow slides and avalanches are possible.

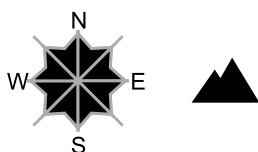
**region D**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wet avalanches as day progresses**

**Avalanche prone locations**

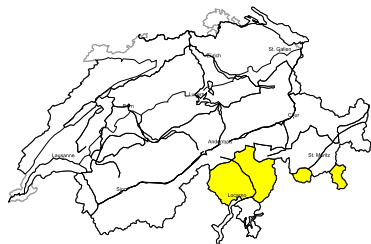


**Danger description**

The snowpack will be wet all the way through. Small and medium-sized gliding avalanches and wet snow slides are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

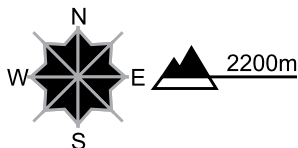
**region E**

**Level 2, moderate**



**Wind slabs**

**Avalanche prone locations**



**Danger description**

Only a small amount of snow is lying for the time of year.

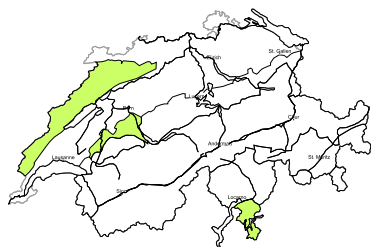
At elevated altitudes clearly visible wind slabs formed. These are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised as well in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

**Wet avalanches as day progresses**

In particular on steep south facing slopes wet snow slides and avalanches are possible.

**region F**

**Level 1, low**



**Wet avalanches as day progresses**

Only a little snow is now lying. The snowpack will be wet all the way through. In particular on steep south facing slopes wet snow slides and avalanches are possible. Mostly they are small.

## Snowpack and weather

updated on 30.12.2021, 17:00

### Snowpack

On the northern flank of the Alps, rain fell up to 2800 m. In the other regions on the main Alpine ridge and to the north, it rained up to approximately 2600 m. In consequence, the snowpack became thoroughly moist up to high altitudes or, in areas close to the snowfall level, at least the near-surface layers of the snowpack became moist. At elevated altitudes, the strong to storm force northwesterly wind transported large quantities of the fresh snow and in some cases the old snow as well.

The warm and moist snow is settling quickly. In addition, with clear night skies, the snow surface will freeze on Thursday night, which will promote the rapid stabilisation. In places where the snowpack remained dry, namely in the high Alpine regions on the northern flank of the Alps and elsewhere above approximately 2600 m, the snowpack is stabilising more slowly. Furthermore, from central Valais through northern Ticino to Grisons, the fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on weakly bonded old snow and remain prone to triggering at elevated altitudes in these regions in particular.

### Observed weather on Thursday, 30.12.2021

Thursday morning saw the end of the precipitation period that began on Monday and encompassed all regions on the main Alpine ridge and to the north. During the day, it was quite sunny in central and southern Ticino and in Valais, and it became gradually brighter on the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons.

#### Fresh snow

The values below apply to altitudes above approximately 3000 m on the northern flank of the Alps, otherwise above approximately 2600 m:

From Wednesday afternoon until Thursday morning:

- From the eastern Bernese Oberland across the Glarus Alps to northern Grisons and into Samnaun: 10 to 20 cm, but locally up to 40 cm
- Other parts of the northern flank of the Alps and the other parts of Valais and Grisons: 5 to 15 cm
- Elsewhere: dry

In the period from the start of precipitation on Monday until Thursday morning, the following amounts of snow fell:

- Extreme west of Lower Valais and the northern flank of the Alps: mostly 50 to 100 cm
- Rest of Valais, rest of the northern flank of the Alps, Prättigau and Samnaun: 30 to 50 cm
- Less elsewhere, none in central and southern Ticino

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: between +5 °C in the north and +7 °C in the south

#### Wind

Northwesterly

- During the night on the northern Alpine ridge and the main Alpine ridge, strong to storm force, otherwise moderate at elevated altitudes
- Easing gradually during the day

### Weather forecast through Friday, 31.12.2021

After a clear night, it will be sunny and very mild for the time of year.

#### Fresh snow

-

#### Temperature

At midday at 2000 m: about +9 °C

#### Wind

From the west to northwest

- Moderate to strong in the north
- Light to moderate in the south

**Outlook** through Sunday, 02.01.2022

On New Year's Day it will remain sunny and very mild in the mountains. On 2 January, cloud will build up from the northwest in the afternoon. The northwesterly wind will ease on New Year's Day. On 2 January, the westerly wind will strengthen significantly. The avalanche danger will decrease.