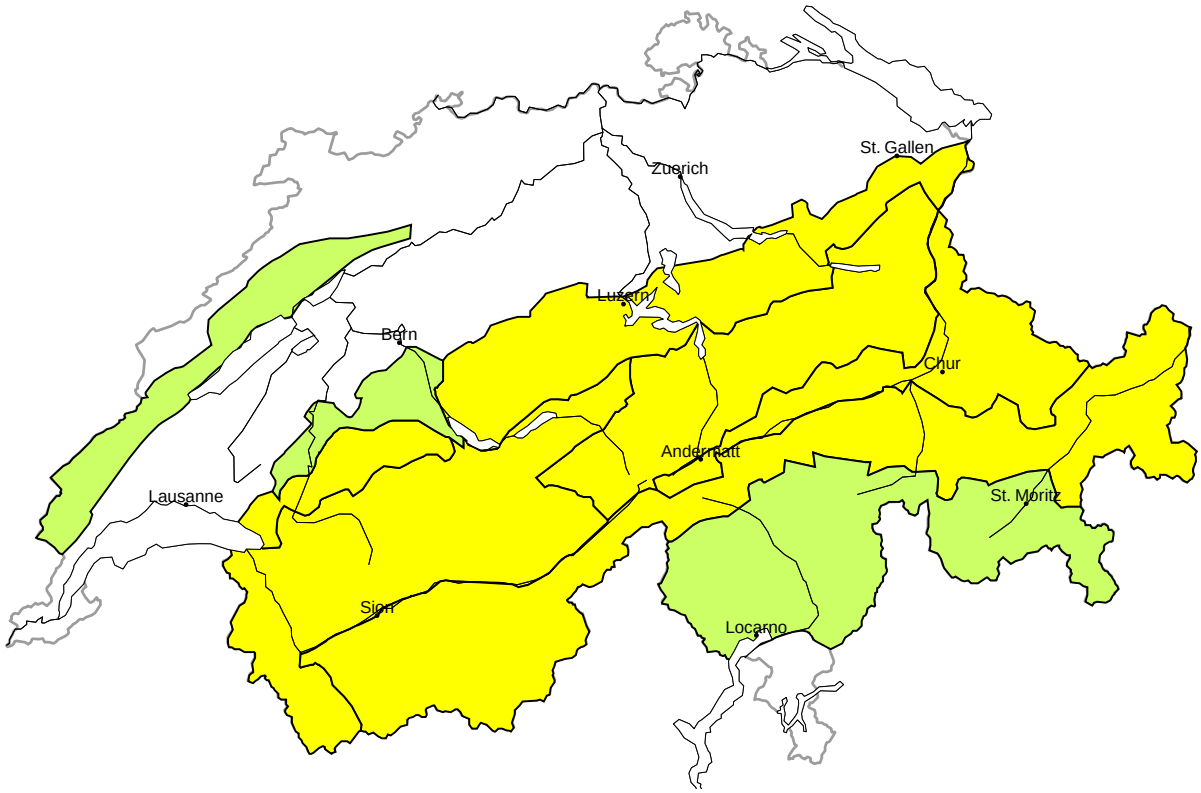
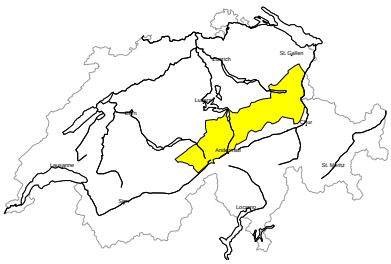
Avalanche bulletin through Sunday, 15. December 2024

Avalanche danger

updated on 14.12.2024, 17:00

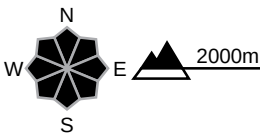


region A — Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

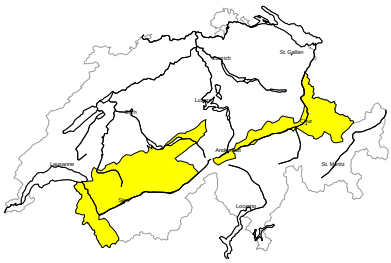
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

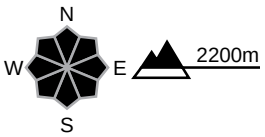
As a consequence of new snow and northwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. The new snow and wind slabs are bonding poorly with the old snowpack in many places. Dry avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in deeper layers. Single persons can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for careful route selection.

region B — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and northwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. The new snow and wind slabs are bonding poorly with the old snowpack in many places. Dry avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in deeper layers. Single persons can release avalanches. Mostly the avalanches are small. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for careful route selection.

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

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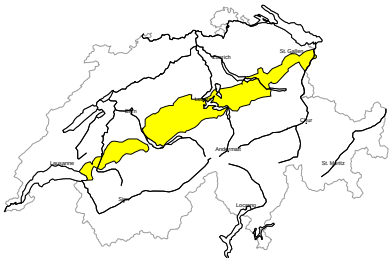
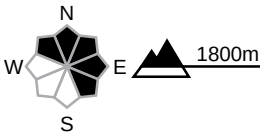
region C — Moderate (2-)



Wind slab

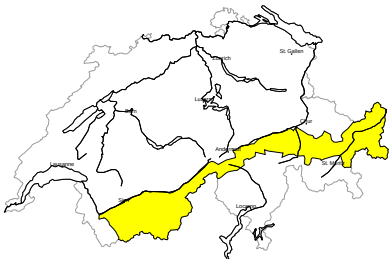
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

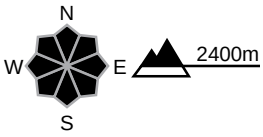
As a consequence of new snow and northwesterly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. These are mostly small but can in some cases be released easily. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

region D — Moderate (2-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

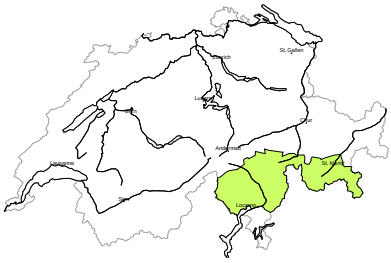
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The more recent wind slabs are to be found in particular adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas and at elevated altitudes. These are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be avoided in particular in terrain where there is a danger of falling.
Additionally in isolated cases dry avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. Caution is to be exercised in particular on very steep slopes.

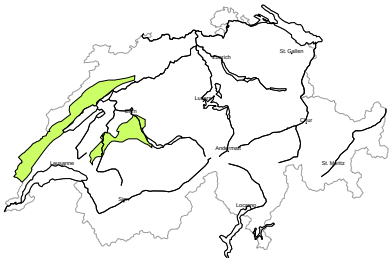
region E — Low (1)



Wind slab

Thus far only a little snow is lying. As a consequence of a strong northerly wind, small wind slabs will form. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain and in high Alpine regions.
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.

region F — Low (1)



Wind slab

Thus far only a little snow is lying. The fresh wind slabs are only small but can in some cases be released easily. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in extreme terrain.
Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

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

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Snowpack and weather

updated on 14.12.2024, 17:00

Snowpack

The snowpack is locally highly variable and snow depths vary greatly depending on wind exposure. There is only a little snow on the southern flanks of the Alps and in southern Grisons.
Before the current snowfall in the north, the old snow surface had become faceted in places. There was also surface hoar frost, particularly in places that are protected from the wind. Adjacent to ridgelines, the snowpack was largely shaped by the wind. More recent snowdrift accumulations are mainly present in places that are protected from the wind on the unfavourable old snow surface and are prone to triggering. In addition, on the northern Alpine ridge, in Valais, in the Gotthard region, in northern and central Grisons and in Engadine, there are some weak layers in the middle part of the snowpack where there are melt-freeze crusts.

Weather review for Saturday

Apart from a few clear spells in the south, skies were mostly overcast. In the west and north, snow began to fall above approximately 1000 m as the day progressed.

Fresh snow
5 to 10 cm in the western Jura and the extreme west of Lower Valais, otherwise a few centimetres in the north

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around -3 °C.

Wind
Mostly weak during the night, moderate westerly to northwesterly winds during the day, especially in the north

Weather forecast to Sunday

In the north, skies will be mostly overcast and snow will fall down to low altitudes. It will be increasingly sunny in Valais and mainly sunny in the south.

Fresh snow
The following amounts of snow are expected by Sunday afternoon:
- northern flank of the Alps from the Grimsel area via the Urn and Glarus Alps to the Alpstein massif: 15 to 30 cm
- rest of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm
- Valais, central Grisons, northern Engadine around 5 cm, mostly dry in the south

Temperature
Temperatures will fall, reaching between -7 °C in the north and -4 °C in the south at midday at 2000 m.

Wind
- Moderate, at high altitudes sometimes strong northwesterly to northerly winds
- On the southern flank of the Alps, rising foehn wind from the north (moderate to strong)

Outlook

Monday and Tuesday
It will be sunny and will get appreciably warmer. At 2000 m, around +5 °C is expected. The wind will be mostly light to moderate from the west.
The danger of dry avalanches will slowly decrease. Gliding snow slides are possible on steep meadow slopes and isolated moist loose snow slides on steep sunny slopes.