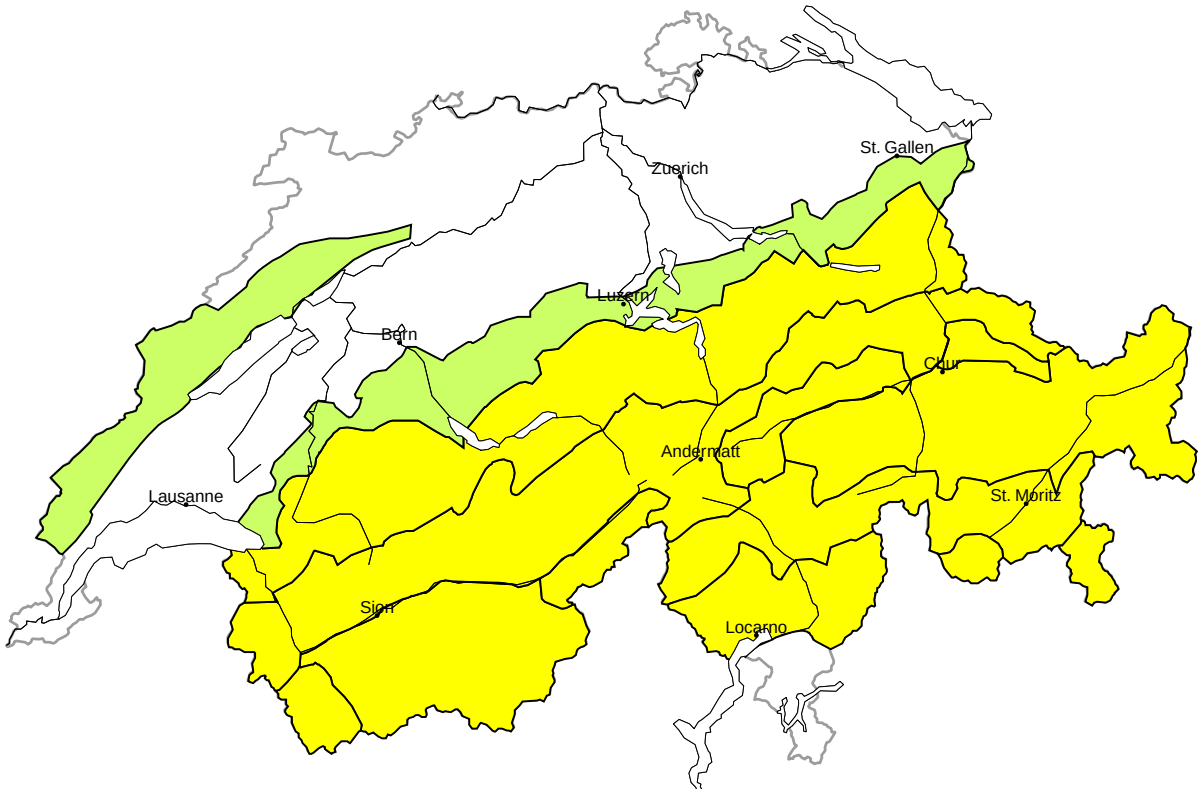
Avalanche danger

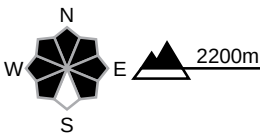
updated on 2.1.2025, 08:00



region A — Moderate (2+)

Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

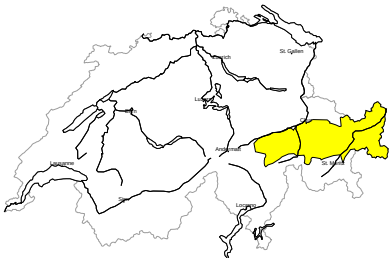
A treacherous avalanche situation will prevail. Distinct weak layers exist deep in the snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. The avalanche prone locations are rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow.
As a consequence of a strengthening westerly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes. Ski touring calls for defensive route selection.
Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

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

Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 2. January 2025

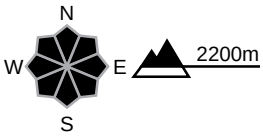
region B

Moderate (2+)



Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

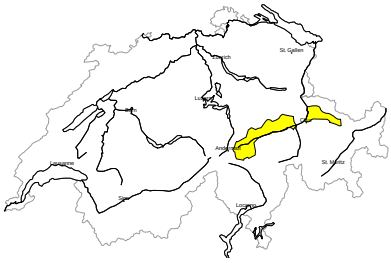


Danger description

A treacherous avalanche situation will prevail. Distinct weak layers exist deep in the snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow, as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.
As a consequence of westerly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes.
Ski touring calls for defensive route selection.
Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

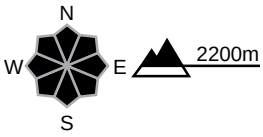
region C

Moderate (2+)



Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



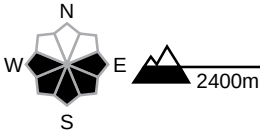
Danger description

A treacherous avalanche situation will prevail. Distinct weak layers exist deep in the snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow, as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.
As a consequence of westerly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes.
Ski touring calls for defensive route selection.
Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

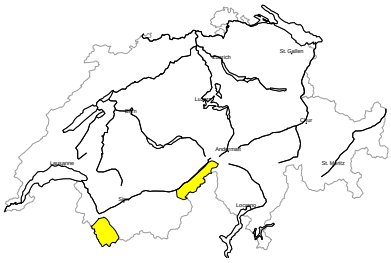
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are possible,, in isolated cases also on very steep shady slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

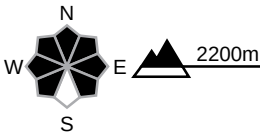
region D



Moderate (2+)

Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



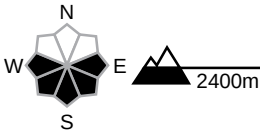
Danger description

A treacherous avalanche situation will prevail. Distinct weak layers exist deep in the snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. The avalanche prone locations are rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Caution is to be exercised in particular in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow.
As a consequence of a strengthening westerly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes. Ski touring calls for defensive route selection.
Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

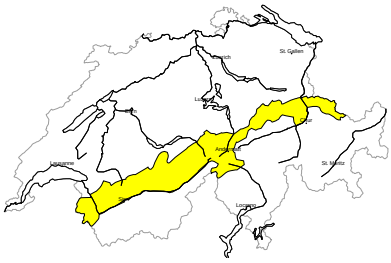
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are possible,, in isolated cases also on very steep shady slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

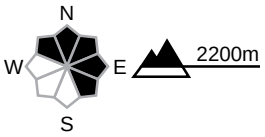
region E



Moderate (2=)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



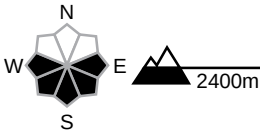
Danger description

The westerly wind will transport the loosely bonded old snow. The fresh wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack on shady slopes. In the course of the day the wind slabs will increase in size additionally. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in deep layers above approximately 2400 m. Careful route selection is important.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

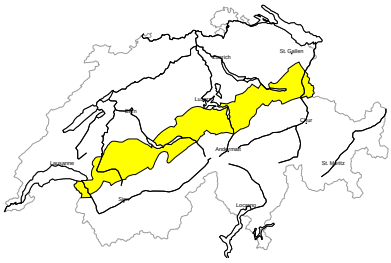


Danger description

Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are possible,, in isolated cases also on very steep shady slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

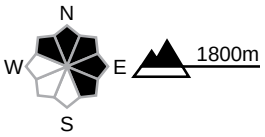
region F

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



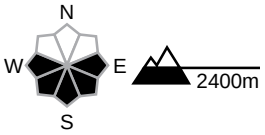
Danger description

The westerly wind will transport the loosely bonded old snow. The fresh wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack on shady slopes. In the course of the day the wind slabs will increase in size additionally. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in deep layers above approximately 2400 m. Careful route selection is important.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations

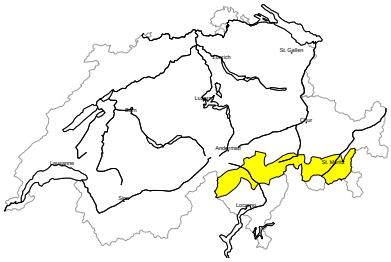


Danger description

Medium-sized and, in isolated cases, large gliding avalanches are possible,, in isolated cases also on very steep shady slopes. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided as far as possible.

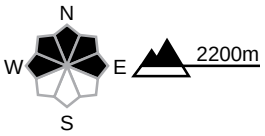
region G

Moderate (2=)



Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

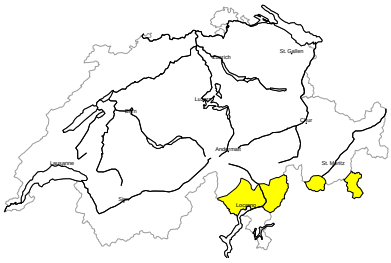


Danger description

Distinct weak layers exist in the snowpack. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain,, also at a distance from ridgelines. Avalanches can reach medium size. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
As a consequence of a strengthening westerly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form at elevated altitudes. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

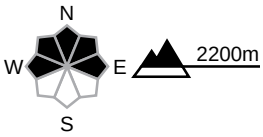
region H

Moderate (2-)



Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

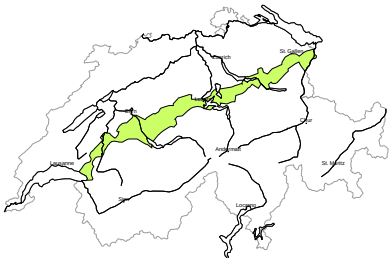


Danger description

Only a little snow is lying. Old wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. They can still be released in some cases. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Mostly the avalanches are small.
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 I

Low (1)



Wind slab

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. As a consequence of a strong to storm force westerly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form, in particular on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. The fresh wind slabs are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. They are to be avoided in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

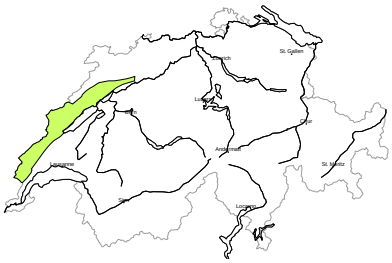
Low (1)

Gliding snow

On very steep grassy slopes small and, in isolated cases, medium-sized gliding avalanches are possible. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region J

Low (1)



Wind slab

Individual avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found in particular in extremely steep terrain. As a consequence of a strong to storm force westerly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form, in particular on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. The fresh wind slabs are clearly recognisable to the trained eye. They are to be avoided in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 1.1.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

In the north and generally at high altitudes, strong to storm force westerly winds are transporting old snow. Medium-sized snowdrift accumulations are developing. These are mainly being deposited on shady slopes on weak, faceted layers or surface hoar frost and are very prone to triggering.
There are widespread weak faceted layers deep in the old snowpack. North of a line between the Rhone and Rhine, these are often covered by thick, compact layers of snow. Avalanches in deeper layers may only be triggered in isolated cases and especially in places with little snow. In other regions, avalanches may still be triggered in weak layers near the ground and may still become large. There is little lying snow, especially along the Main Alpine Ridge in Grisons, in the Upper Engadine and in central Ticino, where avalanches may become medium in size.
In those northern and western regions with a lot of snow, medium and occasionally large gliding avalanches are still possible.

Weather review for New Year's Day

Conditions were sunny and mild in the mountains.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around 0 °C

Wind
Westerly winds, moderate in the Jura and at the northern flak ot the Alpes, otherwise mostly weak

Weather forecast to Thursday

Conditions will often be cloudy. There will still be some brighter intervals, especially in inneralpine regions. In the late afternoon, snow will start to fall from the north-west above approximately 1000 m.

Fresh snow
A few centimetres in the west by late afternoon, otherwise still dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the north and -4 °C in the south.

Wind
Southwesterly winds, strong to storm force on the northern flank of the Alps and moderate to strong in other regions at high altitudes

Outlook

Snow will fall down to low-lying areas overnight to Friday. By Friday morning, 15 to 30 cm of snow is expected in the western Jura, on the northern flank of the Alps and in the extreme west of Lower Valais, and 10 to 20 cm in the rest of the Jura and Valais and in northern Grisons. Little or no snow will fall further south. While the snow is falling, there will initially be strong westerly winds and later on moderate northwesterly winds. On Friday, it will remain cloudy for longer in the east and along the Prealps, otherwise conditions will be fairly sunny. On Saturday, conditions will be sunny in the mountains at first. In the afternoon, clouds will gather from the west as the southwesterly wind increases.
Fresh and drifted snow will be deposited mainly on shady slopes on an unfavourable surface of faceted crystals and sometimes also on surface hoar frost. Avalanche danger is expected to increase to level 3 (considerable) in the north and far west on Friday. In other regions, it will increase slightly, especially at high altitudes. There will be little change in avalanche danger on Saturday.