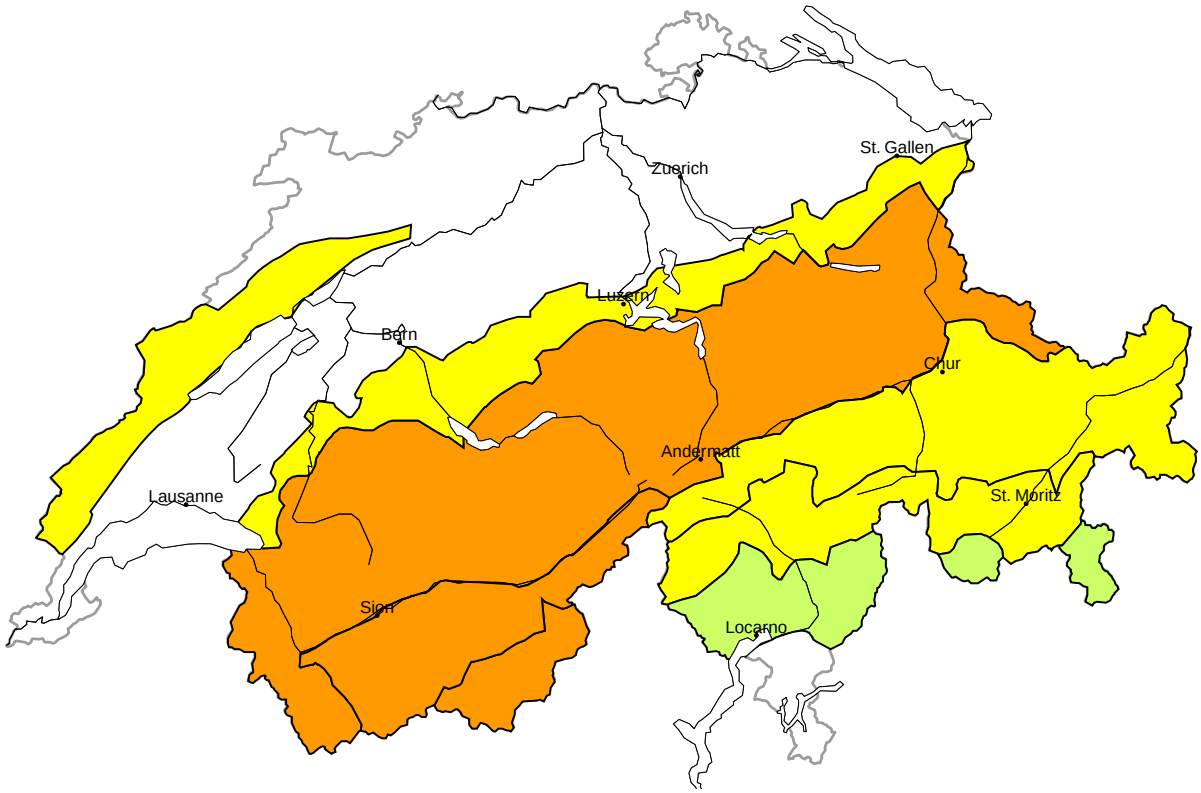
Avalanche danger

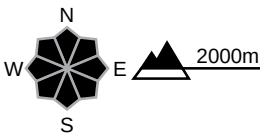
updated on 5.1.2025, 08:00



region A — Considerable (3=)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



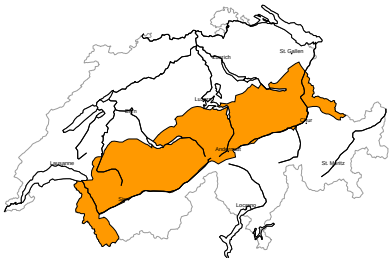
Danger description

The fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Avalanches can in some cases penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach large size.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

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

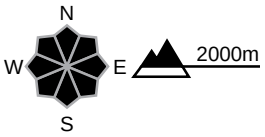
region B

Considerable (3=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



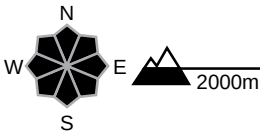
Danger description

The fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. They can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Additionally avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack. Avalanches can reach large size in isolated cases.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

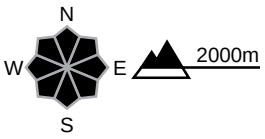
Gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible. Gliding avalanches can in isolated cases reach large size.

region C

Considerable (3=)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



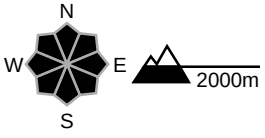
Danger description

The fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. Single snow sport participants can release avalanches. Avalanches can in some cases penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach large size.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Moderate (2)

Gliding snow

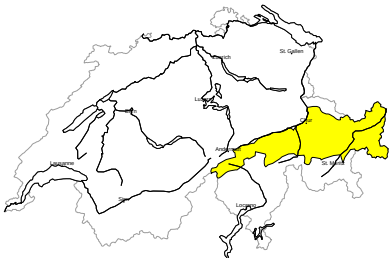
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

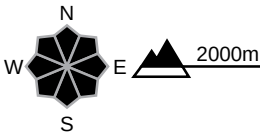
Gliding avalanches and moist snow slides are possible. Gliding avalanches can in isolated cases reach large size.

region D — Moderate (2+)



Persistent weak layers

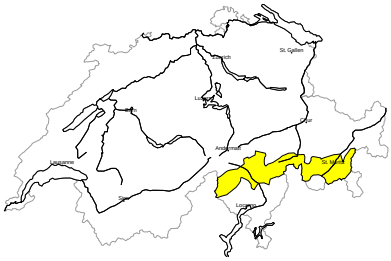
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

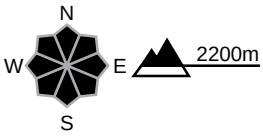
A treacherous avalanche situation will prevail. Distinct weak layers exist deep in the snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. The avalanche prone locations are rather rare but are barely recognisable, even to the trained eye. Whumpfing sounds 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 a moderate southwesterly wind, mostly small wind slabs will form. They are prone to triggering.
Ski touring calls for defensive route selection.
Maintaining distances between individuals and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

region E — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

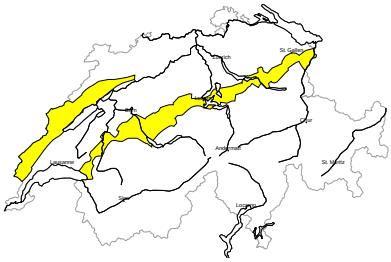
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

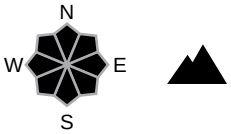
Distinct weak layers exist in the snowpack. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain,, also at a distance from ridgelines. Avalanches can reach medium size. Isolated whumpfing sounds can indicate the danger.
As a consequence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

region F — Moderate (2)



Gliding snow

Avalanche prone locations



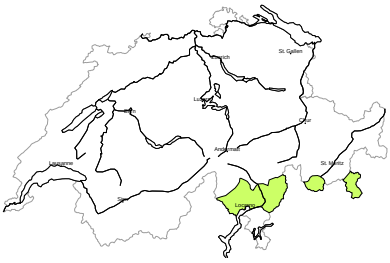
Danger description

Gliding avalanches are possible. They can reach medium size.

Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 5. January 2025

region G

Low (1)



Persistent weak layers

Only a little snow is lying. Older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Individual 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. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 4.1.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

On the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais, the snowpack will become moist during the night to Sunday with rain up to around 2000 m. Above this, the new fallen snow is deposited on a cold and often loose surface of the snowpack.
Various weak layers are embedded in the snowpack. On the one hand, there is an angular layer under the last new snow and drift snow, which fell during the night to Friday. In addition, there are widespread angular weak layers deep in the snowpack. Avalanches are still possible in weak layers near the ground, especially from southern Valais via Ticino to Grisons, 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, however avalanches may also become medium in size there.

Weather review for Saturday, 04.01.2025

It was still mostly sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
Rising. At midday at 2000 m, between -1 °C in the west and -4 °C in the east and south.

Wind
- Westerly to northwesterly
- Sometimes strong during the night at high altitudes, otherwise mostly moderate

Weather forecast until Sunday, 05.01.2025

There will be widespread precipitation during the night to Sunday. It will remain dry only in the far south. In the afternoon there will be brighter intervals, especially towards the west. Otherwise it will remain mostly very cloudy.

Fresh snow
The snowfall level will increase rapidly and will be around 2400 m by the middle of the day at the end of the precipitation, and around 1600 m in the inneralpine regions of Grisons. The following amounts of fresh snow are expected above approximately 2500 m:
- Western Lower Valais, northern flank of the Alps: 15 to 30 cm, and locally up to 40 cm;
- rest of Valais, Prättigau: mostly 10 to 20 cm
- northern Ticino and the rest of northern Grisons, central Grisons: 5 to 10 cm
- Less elsewhere, dry in the far south

Where it only rains, the data can be assumed to mean millimetres of rain.

Temperature
Rising significantly, especially in the north; in the middle of the day at 2000 m, between +7 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south

Wind
- During the night, appreciably freshening from west to southwest
- Generally mostly strong during the day, mostly moderate in the south
- Gradually developing foehn wind from the south from the late afternoon in the Alpine valleys

Avalanche bulletin for Sunday, 5. January 2025

Outlook

On Monday it will still be quite sunny, especially on the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, otherwise it will be cloudy to very cloudy, overcast on the southern flank of the Alps. There will be strong to stormy winds from the south to southwest, with strong to storm force foehn winds in the Alpine valleys. It will remain very mild, especially in the north. During the night to Tuesday, the foehn wind will drop. The wind will blow strongly from the west on the northern flank of the Alps and in the west, while in Ticino and Grisons it will be mostly moderate from westerly directions. It will be changeable in the north and increasingly sunny in the south. On both days there will be precipitation, on Monday in the south and widespread on Tuesday. In total, 40 to 60 cm of snow is likely to fall above 1600 m from the Rheinwald region and Val Moesa to the Bernina region, 20 to 40 cm in Ticino and the extreme west of Lower Valais, and 10 to 20 cm elsewhere. The danger of dry avalanches will increase in the regions exposed to heavier precipitation, markedly so in the south. It will not change significantly in the north. The danger of wet avalanches will decrease in the north. Gliding avalanches are still expected, including large ones.