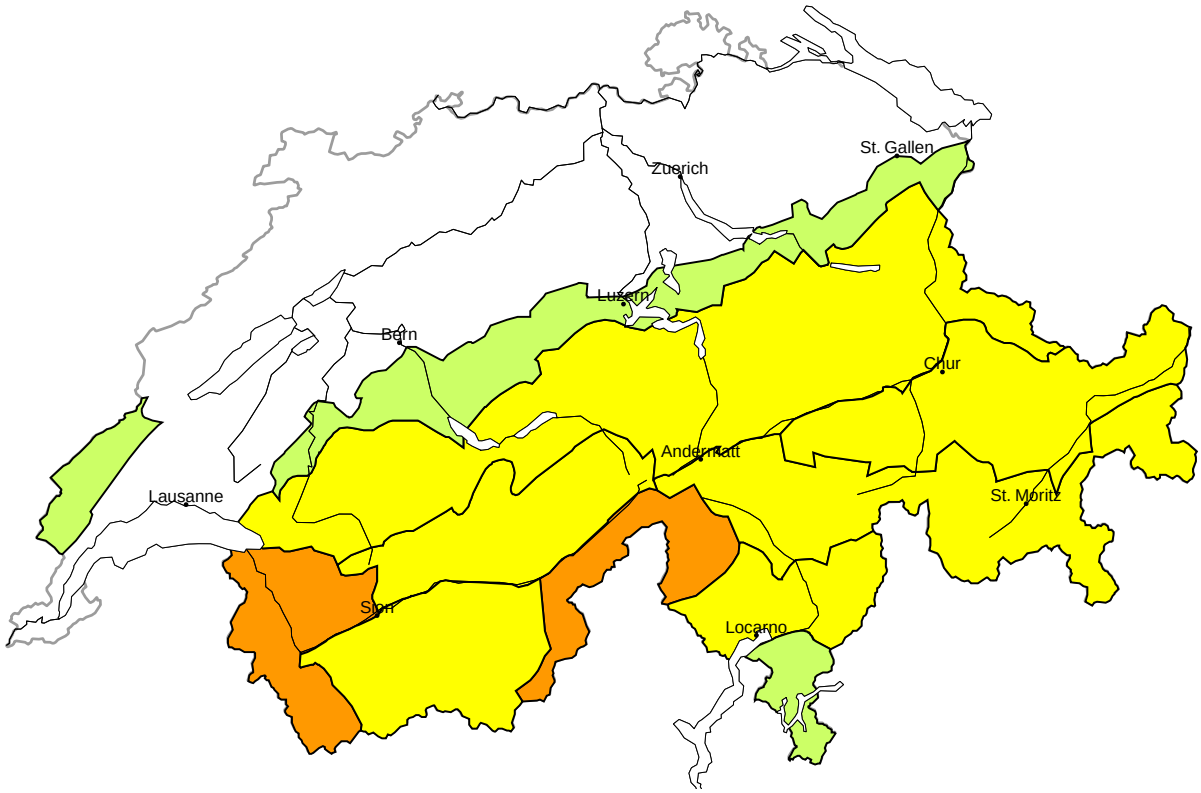
Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 24. January 2025

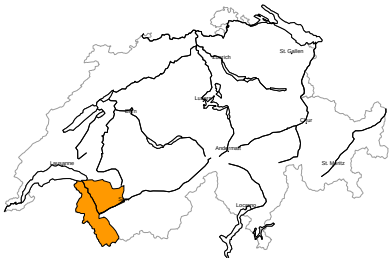
Avalanche danger

updated on 24.1.2025, 08:00



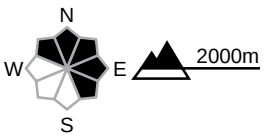
region A

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

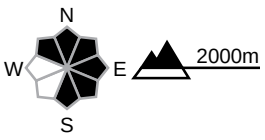
As a consequence of a strong westerly wind, further wind slabs will form. These represent the main danger. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily, including medium-sized ones. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region B

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

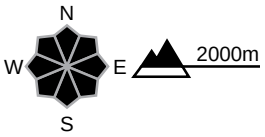
Over a wide area wind slabs are lying on a weakly bonded old snowpack. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches easily. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach medium size.
Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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

region C — Moderate (2+)

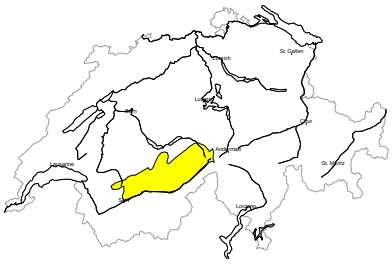
Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



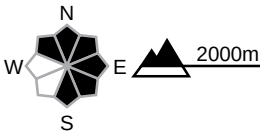
Danger description
Avalanches can in some cases be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size in isolated cases. In addition sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form especially adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas as well as in the high Alpine regions.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

region D — Moderate (2+)



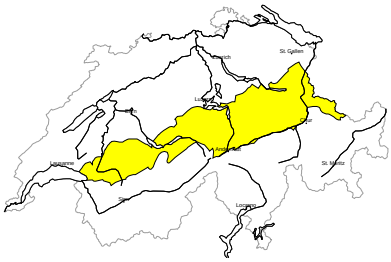
Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



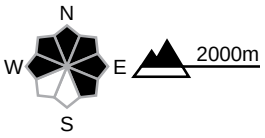
Danger description
As a consequence of a strong westerly wind, further wind slabs will form. Even single persons can release avalanches in some places, including medium-sized ones.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection. The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed.

region E — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

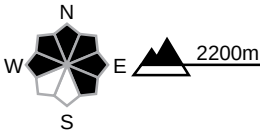


Danger description
Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be found in particular in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Even single persons can release avalanches in some places. Avalanches can reach medium size in isolated cases.
The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in particular in very steep terrain.

region F — Moderate (2=)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
The mostly small wind slabs will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Avalanches can additionally in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack also. Avalanches can reach medium size.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

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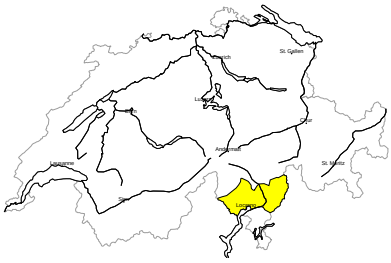
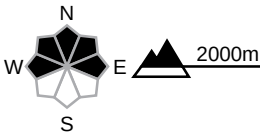
region G — Moderate (2-)



Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



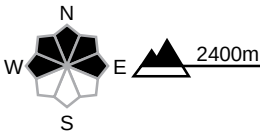
Danger description

Only a little snow is lying. Avalanches can in some cases be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size in isolated cases. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

region H — Moderate (2-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

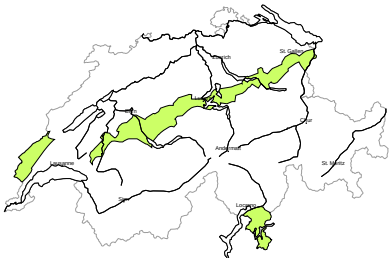
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Avalanches can in isolated cases be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. In addition small wind slabs will form. These are to be bypassed especially in very 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.

region I — Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Only a little snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 23.1.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

The new fallen snow was transported by moderate to strong westerly winds, especially in Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps. The westerly to southwesterly winds continue. The snowdrift accumulations are often easily triggered, especially where the surface of the snowpack was faceted and loose before the precipitation. This was particularly the case on shady, steep slopes that are protected from the wind and tend to be at a distance from ridgelines. Particularly adjacent to ridgelines and in pass areas, the surface of the snowpack was otherwise strongly shaped by the wind and therefore irregular and often hard. Otherwise, the snowpack structure varies from region to region:

- North of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine and in the extreme west of Lower Valais: The middle part of the snowpack is often well consolidated and therefore there is little expectation that avalanches will be triggered deep in the old snowpack.
- South of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine: Particularly in areas with little snow in the south and east, the entire snowpack is faceted and loose in places. Isolated avalanches may still be triggered in weak layers if there is still a sufficiently pronounced snow slab above.

Weather review for Thursday

It snowed widely during the night to Thursday and in the late morning. The snowfall level was between 1800 m and 1300 m. During the day, it brightened up in the inneralpine regions and on the southern flank of the Alps.

Fresh snow
Between Wednesday evening and Thursday midday above 2000 m:

- Lower Valais, Vaud Alps: 10 to 20 cm
- On the rest of the northern flank of the Alps, mostly 5 to 10 cm
- Otherwise less, dry in the inneralpine regions of Grisons

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around -2 °C

Wind
Turning from southwest to west:

- Moderate to strong during the night, especially on the northern flank of the Alps and in the west, easing during the day
- Otherwise, light to moderate.

Weather forecast until Friday

It will be fairly sunny on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais, and mostly sunny in Ticino and Grisons.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
Temperatures rose. At midday at 2000 m, between +5 °C in the north and +3 °C in the south.

Wind
West to southwest, increasing again:

- Moderate to strong on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais, strong at high altitudes
- Weak to moderate in Ticino and Grisons

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Outlook

Saturday
It will be fairly sunny in the north and very cloudy in the south. There will be strong to stormy southwesterly winds in the mountains, with strong foehn winds in the alpine valleys. It will be mild, especially in the north. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.

Sunday
There will be widespread precipitation during the night to Sunday. The snowfall level will drop from 1600 m to 1100 m in the north. In the south it will be around 1200 m. As the day progresses there will be bright spells, first in the north and then also in the south. The avalanche danger will increase slightly across the board, appreciably on the central and eastern parts of the Main Alpine Ridge and south of it.