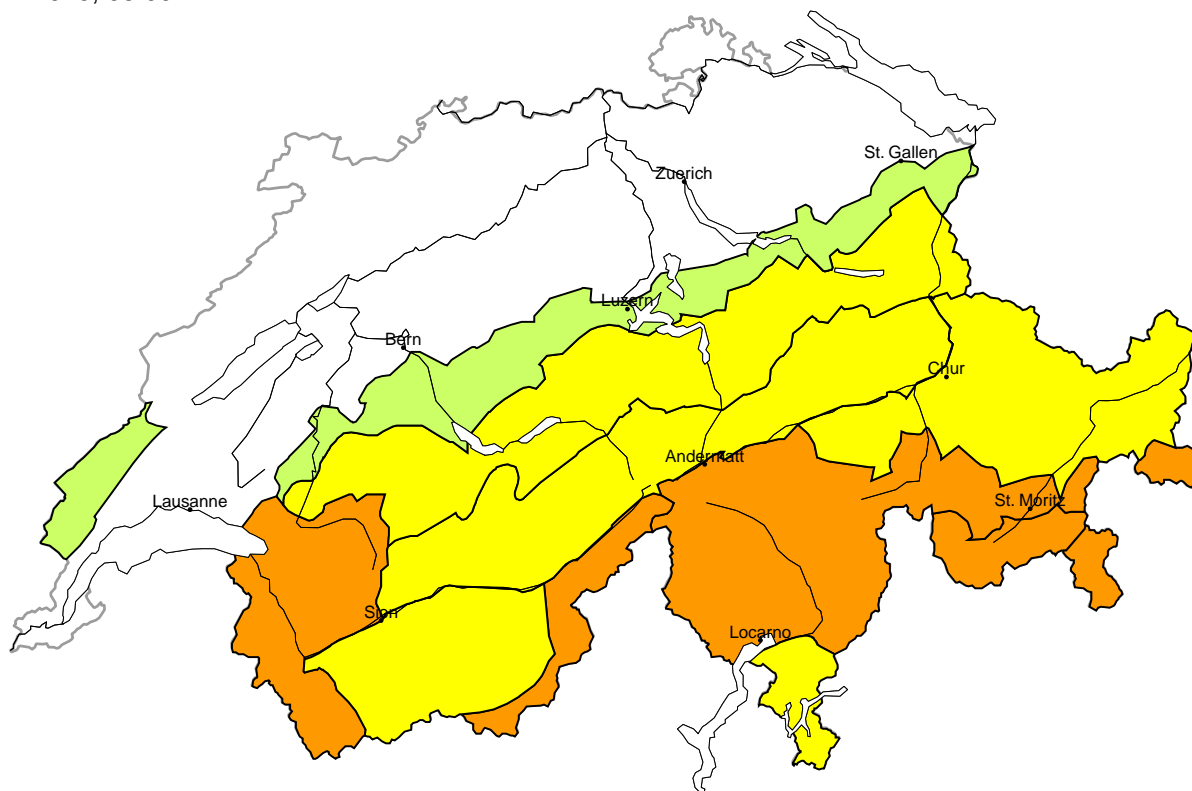
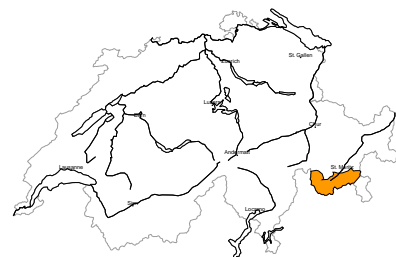


Avalanche danger

updated on 26.1.2025, 08:00

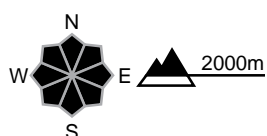


region A Considerable (3+)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Only a small amount of snow is lying for the time of year. The large quantity of fresh snow and the wind slabs will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack especially on shady slopes. Even single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily. Natural avalanches are to be expected in particular on steep shady slopes. In many cases the avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

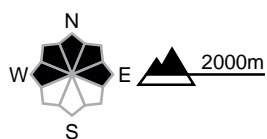
region B

Considerable (3=)

New snow, Persistent weak layers



Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

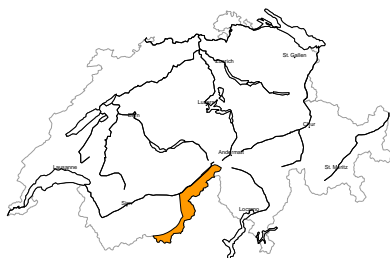
The fresh snow and the wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack especially on shady slopes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. The avalanches can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.

Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

region C

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers



Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

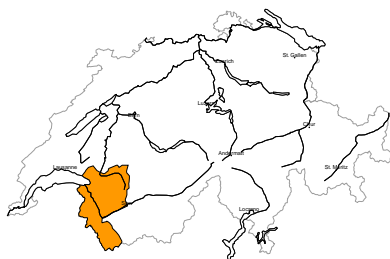
The fresh and older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack on shady slopes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size.

The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed. Snow sport activities outside marked and open pistes call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region D

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab



Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form in the afternoon. 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.



1 low



2 moderate



3 considerable



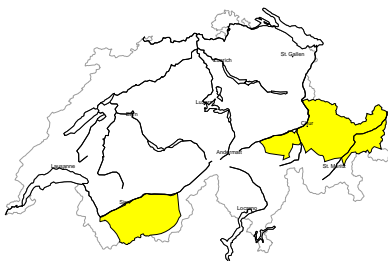
4 high



5 very high

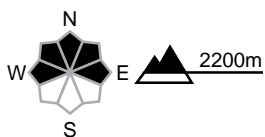
region E

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

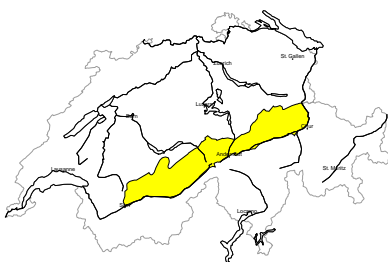


Danger description

The mostly small wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack in particular on shady slopes. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant. 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.

region F

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

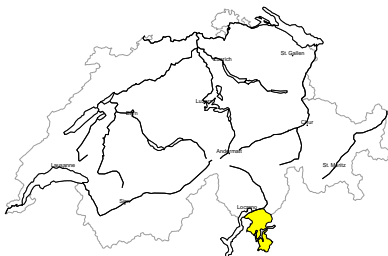


Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form in the afternoon. Even single persons can release avalanches, 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 G

Moderate (2=)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



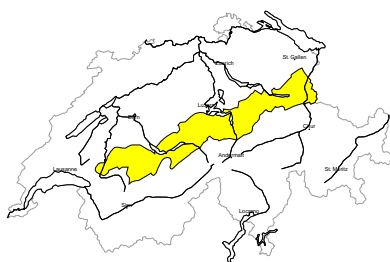
Danger description

Thus far only a little snow is lying. The fresh snow and the wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack especially on shady slopes at elevated altitudes. Persons can release avalanches in some places. These can reach medium size.



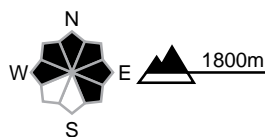
region H

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



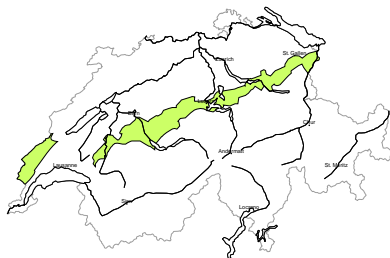
Danger description

As a consequence of a sometimes strong southwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form in the afternoon. The 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. These 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 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 25.1.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

With winds from the west and south and mild temperatures, recent days have seen the formation of often hard snowdrift accumulations. Particularly adjacent to ridgelines and in the vicinity of passes, the surface of the snow has been shaped significantly by the wind and is therefore irregular. With new snow falling and the wind from the southwest, fresh snowdrift accumulations will develop on Sunday.

In the south and in the Engadine, the entire snowpack has become faceted and loose, especially on shady slopes protected from the wind. Over the next few days, a lot of fresh snow will be deposited on this very weak snowpack from eastern Ticino to Upper Engadine. 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 there is little likelihood of avalanches deep in the old snowpack.

Weather review for Saturday

In the north conditions were mostly sunny with foehn winds, while the south was very cloudy.

Fresh snow

-

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between +5 °C in the north and -1 °C in the south

Wind

From the south-west:

- moderate to strong in the north, moderate to strong foehn wind from the south in the Alpine valleys
- moderate at high altitudes in the south

Weather forecast to Sunday

There will be widespread precipitation overnight to Sunday, especially in the south. The snowfall level will initially be around 1700 m in the north and 1400 m in the south, dropping to around 1200 m everywhere. During the day it will be quite sunny in the west, with bright intervals in the south and east in the afternoon.

Fresh snow

From Saturday afternoon to Sunday afternoon:

- main Alpine ridge from the Lukmanier Pass to the Bernina area and south from there: 30 to 50 cm
- extreme west of Lower Valais, Vaud Alps and the rest of Ticino: 15 to 30 cm
- elsewhere a widespread 5 to 15 cm

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between 0 °C in the north and -2 °C in the south.

Wind

From the south-west:

- during the night in the east and generally at high altitudes initially strong to storm-force, elsewhere moderate to strong, with a strong foehn wind from the south in the valleys of the north
- mostly moderate during the day

Outlook

On Monday it will be very cloudy with strong to storm-force southwesterly winds. Foehn-like bright intervals are possible in the east. Widespread precipitation from the west and south will set in in the morning, which will continue into Tuesday and be particularly heavy in the south. Monday to Tuesday afternoon will see a widespread 20 to 40 cm of fresh snowfall, with 50 to 80 cm on the main Alpine ridge from the Lukmanier Pass to the Bernina and south from there. The snowfall level will initially be between 1800 m in the west and 1400 m in the south. During the night to Tuesday, this will drop to around 1200 m.

There will be a widespread increase in avalanche danger. In the night to Tuesday, danger level 4 (high) is expected to be reached from eastern Ticino via Val Moesa, Rheinwald, Avers and Val Bregaglia to the Bernina region. Numerous moderate and large naturally triggered avalanches are expected in these regions. Very large avalanches may also occur, especially in the high Alpine regions, but they will not advance all that far because there is very little snow in the avalanche tracks. However, high-altitude transport routes will be at risk. The avalanche situation for winter sport participants will also become critical in the far west and in the other regions of Grisons and Ticino.