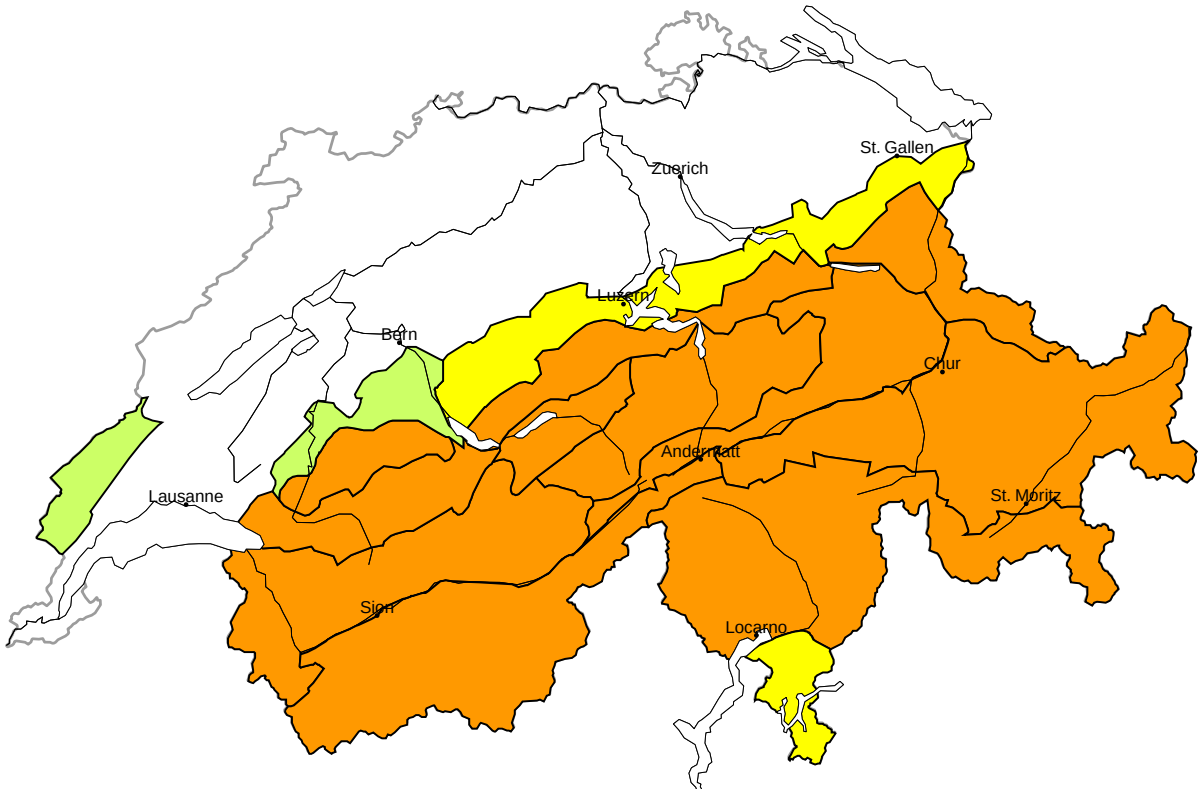
Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 14. February 2025

Avalanche danger

updated on 14.2.2025, 08:00

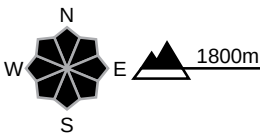


region A

Considerable (3+)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The large quantity of fresh snow and the large wind slabs that are being formed by the moderate to strong wind represent the main danger. Natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

In particular on very steep south facing slopes individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

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

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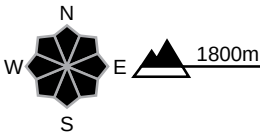
region B

Considerable (3=)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and the sometimes large wind slabs that are being formed by the moderate to strong wind represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

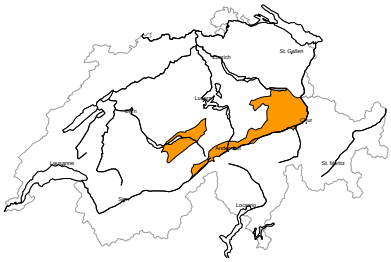
Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

As a consequence of solar radiation loose snow avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses, even medium-sized ones. In particular on very steep south facing slopes individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

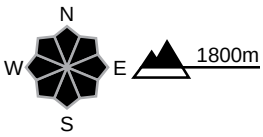
region C

Considerable (3=)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and the sometimes large wind slabs that are being formed by the moderate to strong wind represent the main danger. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

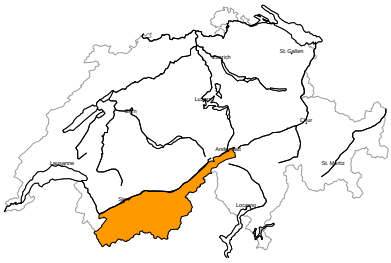
Low (1)

Gliding snow

In particular on very steep south facing slopes individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

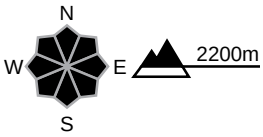
region D

Considerable (3=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The northerly wind will transport the fresh and old snow significantly. The fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on rather lightly snow-covered west, north and east facing slopes in little used backcountry terrain.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

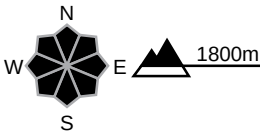
In particular on very steep south facing slopes individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region E

Considerable (3-)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a moderate wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. In many cases they are medium-sized. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Moderate (2)

Wet snow, Gliding snow

As a consequence of solar radiation loose snow avalanches are to be expected as the day progresses, even medium-sized ones. In particular on very steep south facing slopes individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

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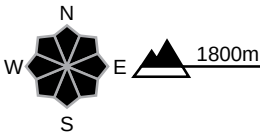
region F

Considerable (3-)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a moderate wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. In many cases they are medium-sized. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

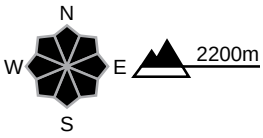
In particular on very steep south facing slopes individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region G

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The northerly wind will transport the fresh and old snow significantly. The fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. Avalanches can penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on rather lightly snow-covered west, north and east facing slopes in little used backcountry terrain.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

In particular on very steep south facing slopes individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

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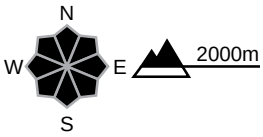
region H

Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The northerly wind will transport the loosely bonded old snow. The fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering. Avalanches can penetrate near-ground layers of the snowpack and reach dangerously large size. This applies in particular on rather lightly snow-covered west, north and east facing slopes in little used backcountry terrain.
Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Low (1)

Gliding snow

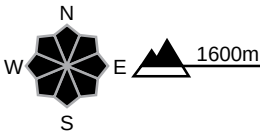
In particular on very steep south facing slopes individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

region I

Moderate (2+)

New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh snow and the wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can in some places be released by people and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

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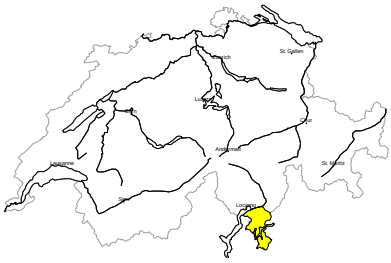
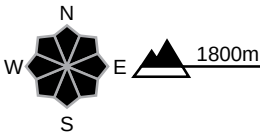
region J

Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The northerly wind will transport the loosely bonded old snow. The fresh wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt changes in the terrain. Avalanches can in some cases reach medium size.
The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

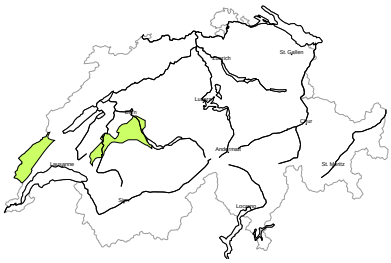
Low (1)

Gliding snow

In particular on very steep south facing slopes individual medium-sized to large gliding avalanches are possible below approximately 2400 m. Caution is to be exercised in areas with glide cracks.

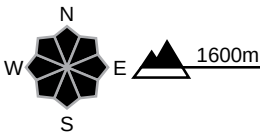
region K

Low (1)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh wind slabs are small but in some cases prone to triggering. 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.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 13.2.2025, 17:00

Snowpack

Large wind slabs will develop in the north on Friday. New snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. In southern Valais, Grisons and Ticino, strong northerly winds will transport the little new snow and the loose old snowpack, leading to wind slabs that are prone to triggering in these regions.
South of a line from the Rhone to the Rhine, there are still weak layers in the lower part of the snowpack. In the last few days, only a few avalanches have been triggered deep in the old snowpack, but these were dangerously large. With the new snow and fresh wind slabs, the triggering of avalanches in deep layers of the snowpack is becoming more probable again.
Only a few gliding avalanches have been reported recently – although some of them were large.

Weather review for Thursday

During the night, some snow fell in the west and north above 1500 m. In the morning it was cloudy with bright spells in Grisons. In the afternoon, snow began to fall again from the north.

Fresh snow
From Wednesday afternoon to Thursday afternoon, the following amounts of new snow were recorded above approximately 1500 m:
- Extreme west of Lower Valais and northern Lower Valais, Vaud Alps: 10 to 15 cm.
- Remaining northern flank of the Alps: 5 to 10 cm.
- Elsewhere: a few centimetres, or dry.

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

Wind
Moderate from the southwest.

Weather forecast to Friday

Widespread snowfall during the night, mainly in the west and north. During the day, it will be mostly sunny in the west and south. It will be cloudy in the east and some more snow will fall. The snowfall level will be at low altitude.

Fresh snow
- Extreme west and northern Valais, eastern Bernese Oberland, central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Prättigau: 20 to 30 cm, from the Bernese Oberland to the Glarus Alps up to 40 cm.
- Remaining northern flank of the Alps, southern Valais, other parts of northern Grisons, central Grisons: 10 to 20 cm.
- Otherwise widespread 5 to 10 cm, dry in Sotto Ceneri.

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, -10 °C in the north and -7 °C in the south.

Wind
- During the night: moderate westerly wind.
- From the early morning: moderate northerly to northeasterly wind along the Prealps, strong Bise wind in the Jura; strong northerly wind at high altitudes and generally in the south.

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Outlook

On Saturday and Sunday it will be mostly sunny in the mountains. The zero-degree level will increase appreciably: in the west and south to around 2200 m, in the east gradually towards 1600 m. The wind will ease. On Saturday there will be a light to moderate north to northeasterly wind, which will turn westerly to northwesterly on Sunday.
The avalanche danger will decrease. As a consequence of warming and solar radiation, loose snow avalanches are to be expected, especially on Saturday in all regions with fresh snow.

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