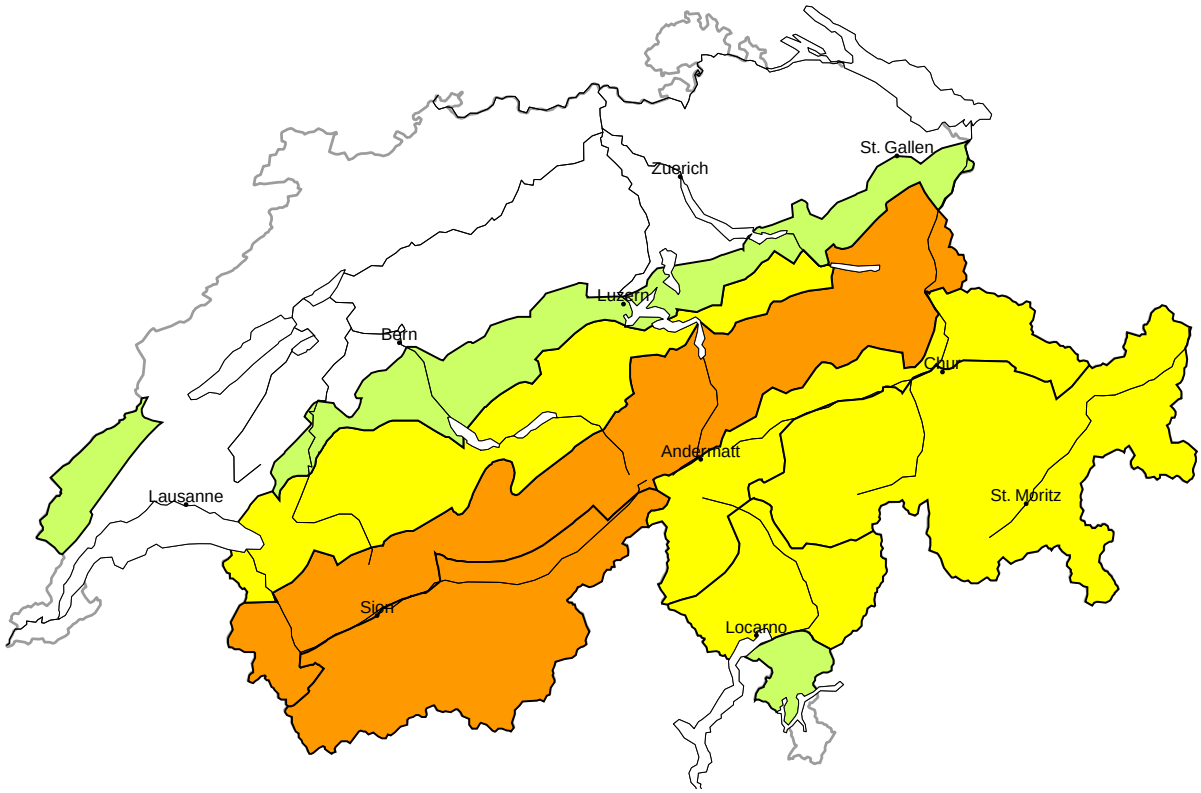
Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 8. January 2026

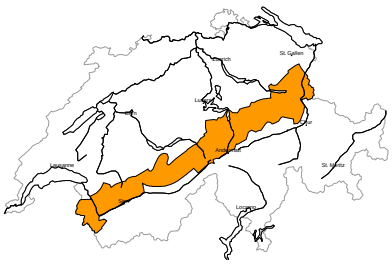
Avalanche danger

updated on 8.1.2026, 08:00



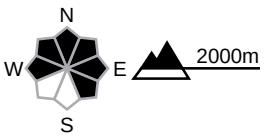
region A

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The sometimes storm force wind will transport the fresh and old snow. The wind slabs will be deposited on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released easily and reach medium size. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached in the course of the day.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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

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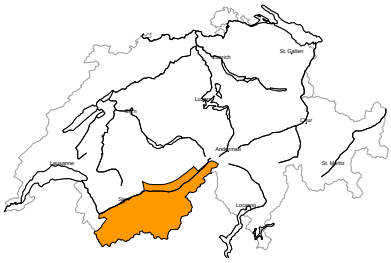
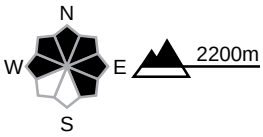
region B — Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

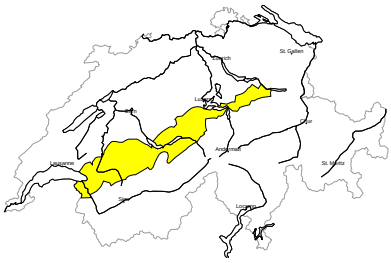
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

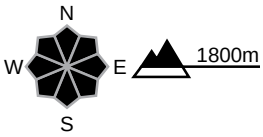
The new snow and wind slabs will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released easily. In isolated cases they can be released in deep layers of the snowpack and reach large size. Danger level 3 (considerable) will be reached in the course of the day. In the afternoon individual natural avalanches are possible.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C — Moderate (2+)



Wind slab

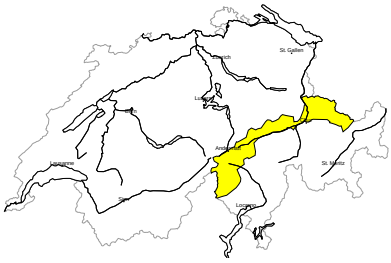
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

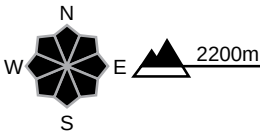
As a consequence of new snow and a strong westerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form in the course of the day. These will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack. The number and size of avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. The fresh wind slabs are to be bypassed.

region D — Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong westerly wind, rather small wind slabs will form. They will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released easily and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

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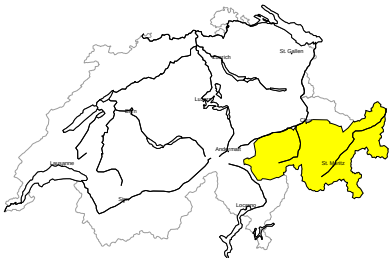
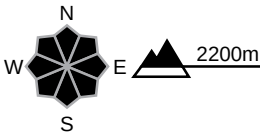
region E — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



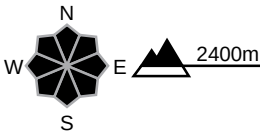
Danger description

The strong wind will transport the loosely bonded old snow. At elevated altitudes mostly small wind slabs will form. These will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack. The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed as far as possible. In isolated cases avalanches can penetrate deep layers and reach medium size.
Careful route selection is recommended.

region F — Moderate (2-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

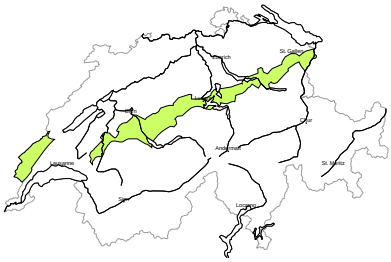
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

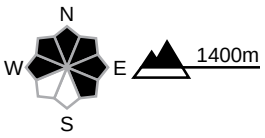
Somewhat older wind slabs are mostly small but in some cases prone to triggering. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence in very steep terrain. Avalanches can additionally in very isolated cases be released in the weakly bonded old snow also. Avalanches can in isolated cases reach medium size.
Careful route selection is recommended.

region G — Low (1)



Wind slab

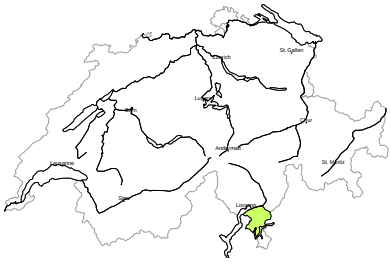
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

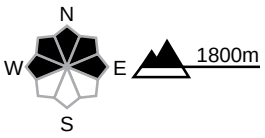
Only a little snow is lying. As a consequence of new snow and a strong westerly wind, small wind slabs will form. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence in extreme terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

region H — Low (1)



No distinct avalanche problem

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

From a snow sport perspective, insufficient snow is lying. Individual avalanche prone locations are to be found in extremely steep terrain. Even a small avalanche can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 7.1.2026, 17:00

Snowpack

On shady slopes, the new snow is falling on top of a faceted snow surface and sometimes also surface hoar. Deeper layers are often relatively well consolidated in the extreme west of Lower Valais as well as in the north. South of a line from Rhône to the Rhine, the entire snowpack is often faceted and loose.
The snow depths in all regions are well below average for the time of year.

Weather review for Wednesday

It was sunny and cold in the mountains.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -13 °C in the north and -9 °C in the south

Wind
Northerly wind:
- Moderate to strong during the night on the Main Alpine Ridge and to the south of it
- Elsewhere light to moderate

Weather forecast to Thursday

Snowfall will set in overnight to Thursday in the west and north and will intensify as the day progresses. The snowfall level will increase from the west from low altitudes towards 1200 to 1400 m.

Fresh snow
From Wednesday evening to Thursday afternoon, the following amounts will fall above 1800 m:
- Northern Alpine ridge west of the Reuss, Valais excluding southern Goms: 15 to 30 cm
- Western Jura, remaining northern flank of the Alps, remaining northern Alpine ridge, Gotthard region, northern Grisons: 5 to 15 cm
- Elsewhere less, dry on the central part of the southern flank of the Alps

Temperature
Pronounced rise in temperatures from the west. At midday at 2000 m, between -2 °C in the west and -8 °C in the east

Wind
Increasingly strong to storm-force westerly to northwesterly wind at high altitudes

Outlook to Saturday

Intense precipitation will fall until Saturday morning, especially in the west and north. The snowfall level in the north will temporarily rise towards 1700 m overnight to Friday and then fall again to low altitudes. The snowfall will be accompanied by a storm-force westerly wind. The intensity of the precipitation will decrease on Saturday. A total of 50 to 80 cm of new snow is expected in the west and north, with up to 1 metre in the extreme west of Lower Valais and northern Lower Valais.
On Friday, danger level 4 (high) is expected to be reached across a widespread area in Valais as well as in some regions on the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and on the northern Alpine ridge west of the Reuss. The avalanche danger will also increase significantly on the remaining northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons. In the regions exposed to heavier precipitation, naturally triggered avalanches, including increasingly very large ones, are to be expected. In southern Valais in particular, where the structure of the snowpack is weak, avalanches can sometimes sweep away the entire old snowpack. Due to the low snowfall level, avalanches can carry along a lot of new snow even at intermediate altitudes and advance into the valleys along usual avalanche paths. However, exceptionally large run-out zones are unlikely. Exposed parts of transportation routes may be at risk.
As the day progresses on Saturday, natural avalanche activity is expected to decrease as the snowfall subsides. However, the avalanche danger is expected to remain high (danger level 4).