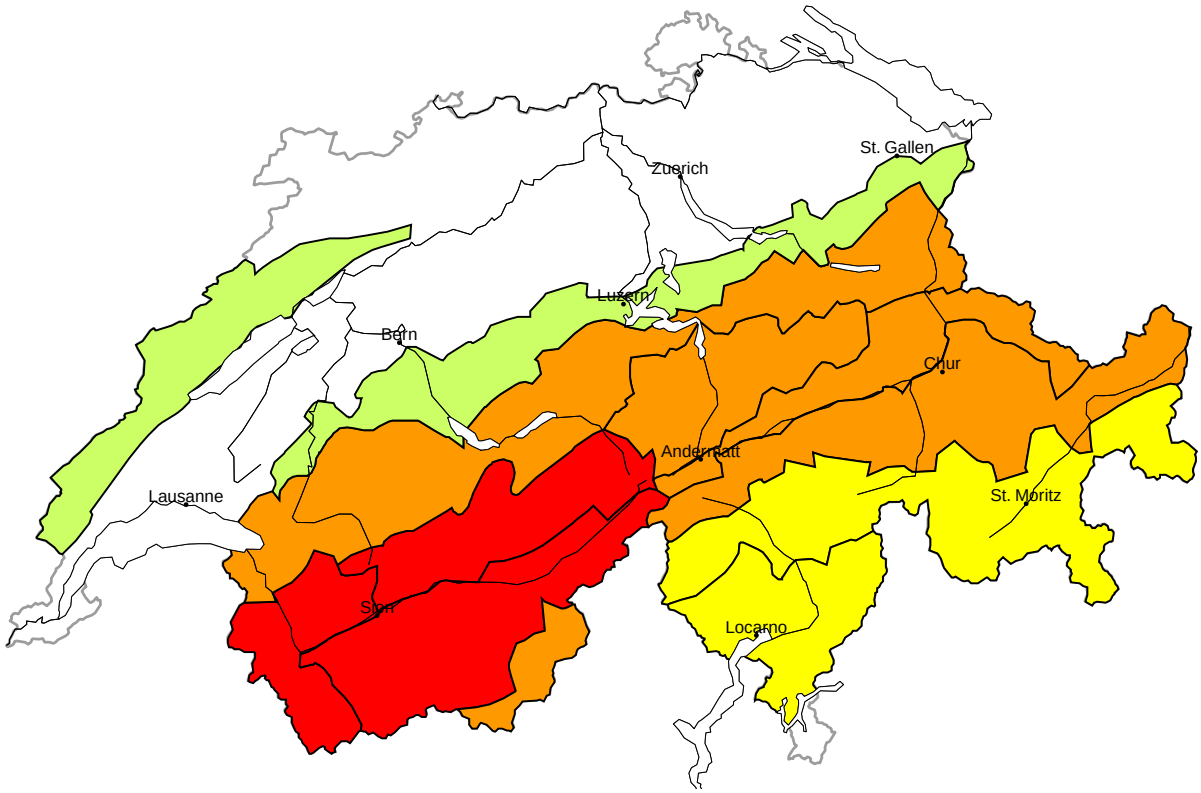
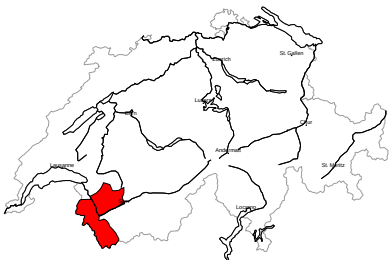
Avalanche bulletin for Friday, 9. January 2026

Avalanche danger

updated on 9.1.2026, 08:00

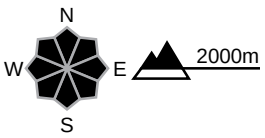


region A — High (4=)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations

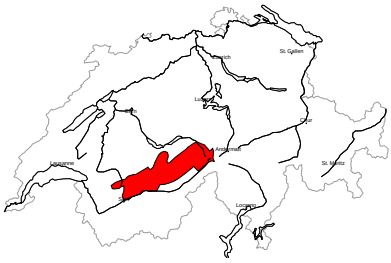


Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are poorly bonded with the old snowpack in many places. Large natural avalanches are to be expected. As the day progresses individual very large avalanches are possible. In the typical avalanche paths these can reach the valleys and in some cases endanger transportation routes that are exposed. The conditions are very critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

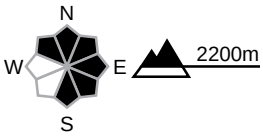
Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 considerable 4 high 5 very high

region B — High (4-)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



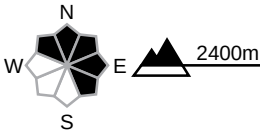
Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. Avalanches can over a wide area be released easily or triggered naturally. Large avalanches are to be expected.
The conditions are very critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes. The danger exists primarily in alpine snow sports terrain. Avalanches capable of reaching valley bottoms and endangering exposed transportation routes are unlikely to occur.

region C — High (4-)

New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



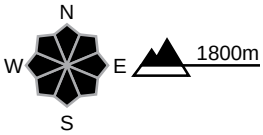
Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Numerous natural avalanches are to be expected. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and reach large size. The danger exists primarily in alpine snow sports terrain. Avalanches capable of reaching valley bottoms and endangering exposed transportation routes are unlikely to occur. The conditions are very critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

region D — Considerable (3+)

Wind slab

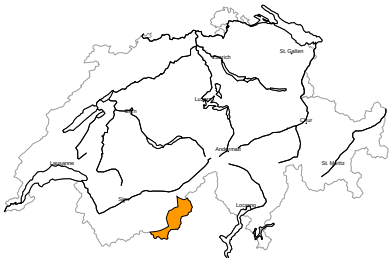
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

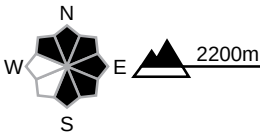
As a consequence of new snow and a strong westerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed over a wide area. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be triggered in the old snowpack. This applies especially on west, north and east facing slopes above approximately 2400 m. Avalanches can in some cases reach large size. Avalanches can in many places be released, even by a single winter sport participant or triggered naturally.
Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region E — Considerable (3+)



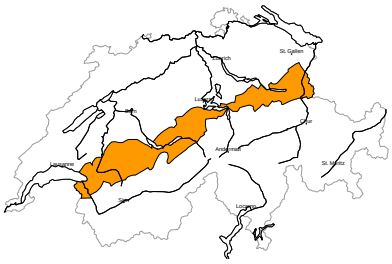
Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



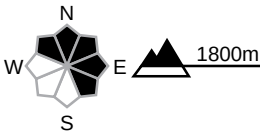
Danger description
The new snow and wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can over a wide area be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size. Natural avalanches are possible.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region F — Considerable (3=)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations

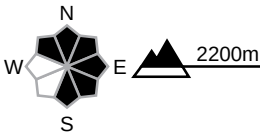


Danger description
As a consequence of new snow and a strong westerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs formed over a wide area. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant and reach large size in isolated cases. Individual natural avalanches are possible.
Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region G — Considerable (3=)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

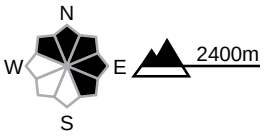


Danger description
The new snow and wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can over a wide area be released, even by a single winter sport participant. Mostly the avalanches are medium-sized.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region H — Considerable (3-)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description
The fresh snow and the wind slabs that are being formed by the westerly wind will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. The fresh wind slabs are to be bypassed in steep terrain.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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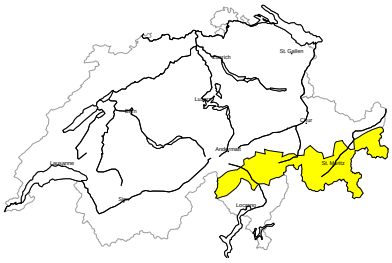
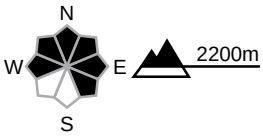
region I

Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

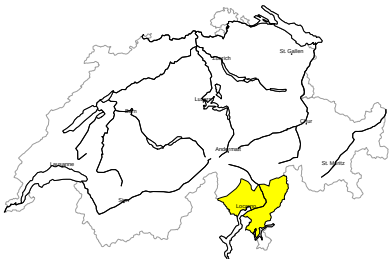


Danger description

Some fresh snow and the mostly small wind slabs will be deposited on a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can in some places be released, even by a single winter sport participant. They can in isolated cases penetrate deep layers and reach medium size. The wind slabs in steep terrain are to be bypassed as far as possible.

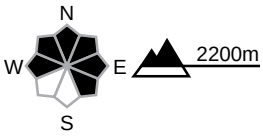
region J

Moderate (2-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

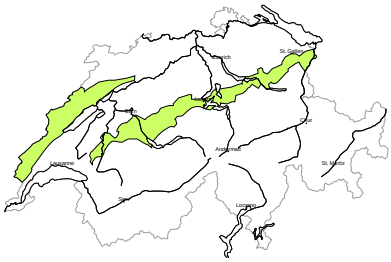


Danger description

Fresh and 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.

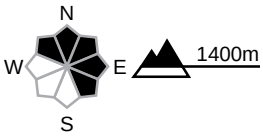
region K

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 very steep terrain. Restraint should be exercised because avalanches can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 8.1.2026, 17:00

Snowpack

In particular on wind-protected shady slopes, fresh snow is falling on a snow surface which is faceted in many places and sometimes also on surface hoar. Deeper layers of the snowpack are relatively well consolidated in the extreme west of Lower Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps. South of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine, the entire snowpack is often faceted and loose. Where fresh and drifted snow is deposited on this weak snowpack, avalanches can start deeper in the snowpack.
Given ongoing snowfall, even relatively large avalanches are increasingly to be expected in the west. These can entrain fresh snow in their track. However, as there is still little lying snow overall, avalanches will remain within known avalanche tracks.

Weather review for Thursday

Conditions were overcast and there was snowfall in the west and north. The snowfall level was at low altitudes in the morning and slowly rose during the day.

Fresh snow
From Wednesday evening to Thursday afternoon above approximately 1200 m:
- northern Alpine ridge from Les Diablerets to the Gotthard region and southern Valais between Val Hérémence and Mattertal: 15 to 30 cm
- rest of the northern flank of the Alps, rest of Valais, northern Grisons, Jura: 5 to 15 cm
- elsewhere less, mostly dry in the south

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -3°C in the northwest and -7°C in the southeast.

Wind
Moderate to strong south to southwesterly

Weather forecast to Friday

In the west and north, conditions will be mostly overcast with further snowfall. Overnight in the north, the snowfall level will temporarily rise to between 1400 and 1600 m before falling back down to around 800 m during the day. In Ticino, central and southern Grisons there will be variable cloud cover with occasional general precipitation from the north.

Fresh snow
From Thursday afternoon to Friday afternoon above approximately 1600 m:
- extreme west and northern Lower Valais: 50 to 80 cm
- northern flank of the Alps west of the Reuss, rest of Valais excluding Visp valleys and Simplon region, western Jura: 30 to 50 cm
- northern flank of the Alps east of the Reuss, Visp valleys, Simplon region, regions north of the Anterior Rhine, northern Prättigau, central and eastern Jura: 20 to 40 cm
- elsewhere a widespread 10 to 20 cm, less or dry in the far south

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around -6°C in the north and -4°C in the south

Wind
- Valais and northern flank of the Alps: strong to stormy southwesterly to westerly
- Ticino, Grisons: moderate, sometimes strong westerly in high Alpine regions

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Outlook to Sunday

High-altitude winds will slowly veer to the northwest. A barrier effect will develop on the northern flank of the Alps. In the west and north, there will be snowfall down to low altitudes, with the heaviest falls overnight from Saturday to Sunday. Over the two days, a total of 30 to 50 cm of fresh snow is again expected in Lower Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, and 15 to 30 cm in Upper Valais and northern Grisons. Winds will be strong to storm force from westerly to northwesterly directions.
Avalanche risk will continue to increase somewhat in many places. In those regions exposed to heavier precipitation on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais, naturally triggered avalanches, some very large, are to be expected. There will be scarcely any change in avalanche risk on the southern flank of the Alps.