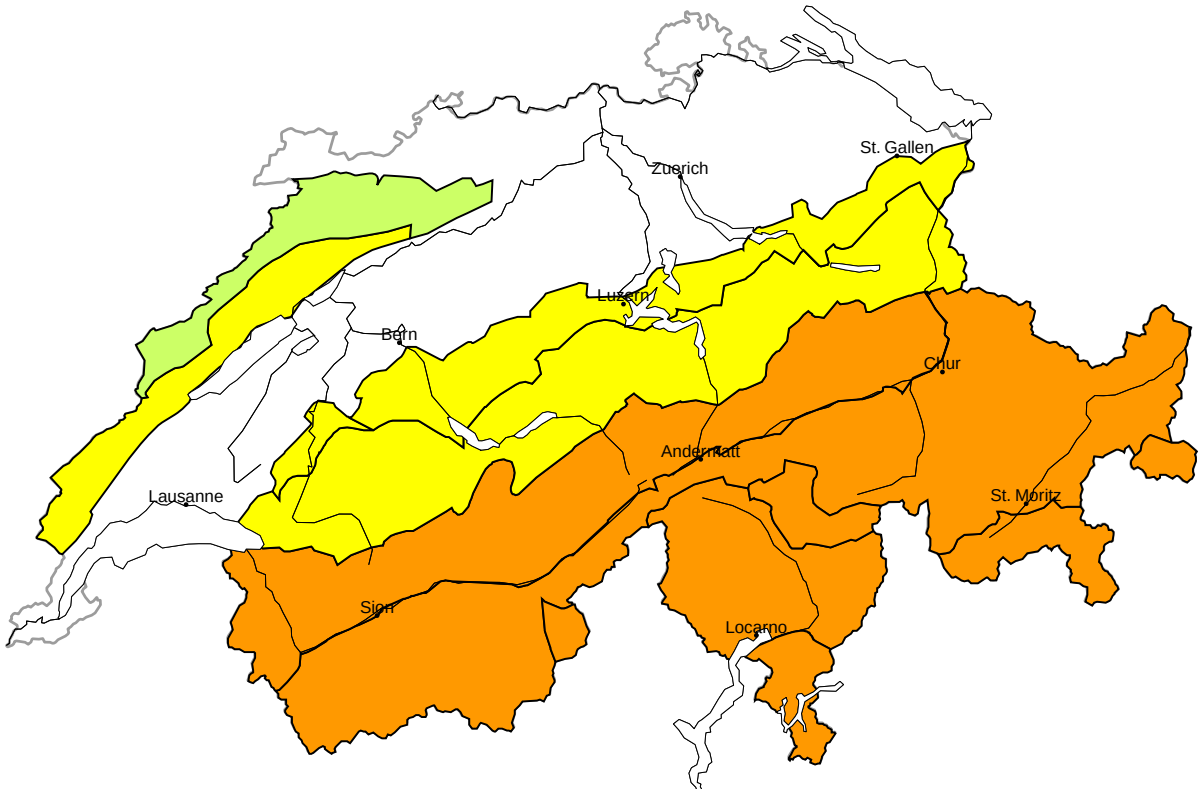
Avalanche bulletin for Thursday, 29. January 2026

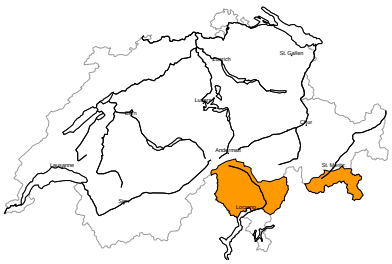
Avalanche danger

updated on 29.1.2026, 08:00



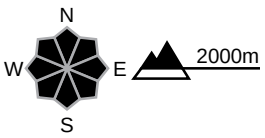
region A

Considerable (3+)



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 in particular on steep west, north and east facing slopes. Avalanches can be released in near-ground layers and reach large size. The avalanche prone locations are prevalent. Remotely triggered avalanches are to be expected. Natural avalanches are possible. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack and fresh avalanches indicate the danger. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

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

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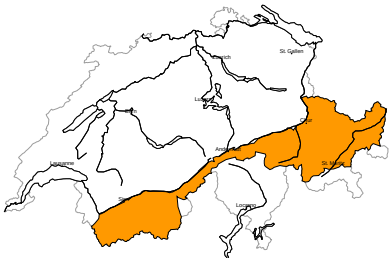
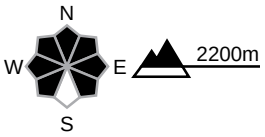
region B

Considerable (3=)



Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

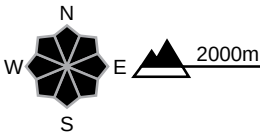
Fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Even single snow sport participants can release avalanches. These can also be triggered in deep layers and reach dangerously large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack can indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C

Considerable (3=)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

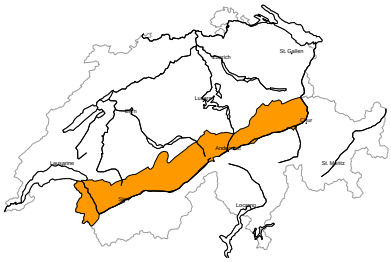


Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack in particular on steep west, north and east facing slopes. Avalanches can be released in near-ground layers and reach large size in isolated cases. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfing sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack and fresh avalanches can indicate the danger.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

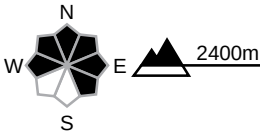
region D

Considerable (3-)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The wind slabs of the last few days are prone to triggering at elevated altitudes. These avalanche prone locations are sometimes covered with new snow and are therefore difficult to recognise. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach dangerously large size.
Caution is to be exercised in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered north and east facing slopes, as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

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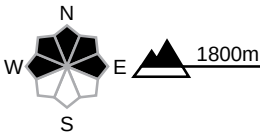
region E — Considerable (3-)

New snow

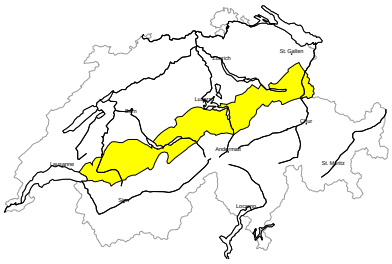
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

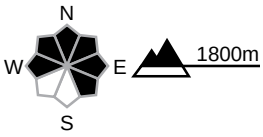
The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on steep west, north and east facing slopes. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches, including medium-sized ones.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region F — Moderate (2+)



Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

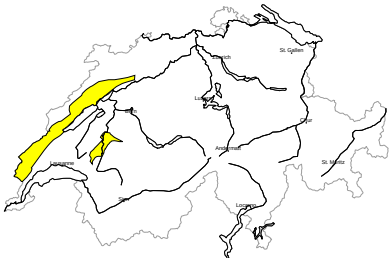
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

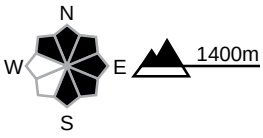
Fresh wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Additionally in isolated cases avalanches can also be released in the old snowpack and reach medium size. These avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. Caution is to be exercised in particular on little-used, rather lightly snow-covered north and east facing slopes, as well as at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

region G — Moderate (2=)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Fresh 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. They are to be evaluated with care and prudence 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.

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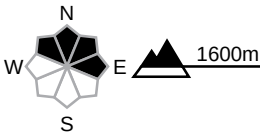
region H

Moderate (2-)

Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations

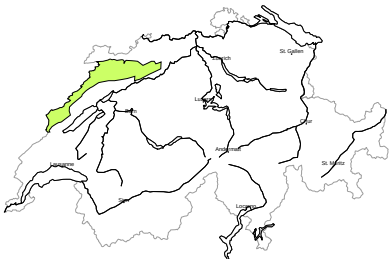


Danger description

Fresh 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. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

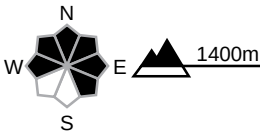
region I

Low (1)



Wind slab

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

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

Snowpack and weather

updated on 28.1.2026, 17:00

Snowpack

In the south, the fresh and drifted snow from the past few days has been deposited on a weak snowpack. The northerly wind has transported the new snow. Avalanches can be triggered very easily in the old snowpack over a wide area. Remote triggering and naturally triggered avalanches are possible. Avalanches are also to be expected deeper in the snowpack in the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons, especially on northern and eastern slopes.
North of a line from the Rhône to the Rhine, strong southerly winds on Tuesday produced snowdrift accumulations, some of which are prone to triggering. Some fresh snow will cover these avalanche-prone locations and the westerly winds will lead to more snowdrift accumulations at higher altitudes. Weak layers deep in the snowpack are less prone to triggering in these regions and avalanche-prone locations are rarer than in other regions.

Weather review for Wednesday

In the north, it was mostly very cloudy, with precipitation falling mainly in the Jura. The snowfall level dropped from 1500 m to around 800 m. It was overcast in the south. There was persistent precipitation along the Main Alpine Ridge and to the south of it. The snowfall level rose from 800 m to around 1200 m.

Fresh snow
From the beginning of the precipitation on Tuesday afternoon until Wednesday afternoon, the following amounts fell above approximately 1400 m:
- Main Alpine Ridge from Val Bregaglia to Bernina Pass, central and southern Ticino, Moesano: 15 to 30 cm
- Jura, rest of the Main Alpine Ridge from the Great St Bernard Pass to the Gotthard region, northern Ticino: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere a widespread 5 to 10 cm
- Largely dry from the Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein, northern Grisons, Lower Engadine

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, between -4 °C in the west and south and -1 °C in the east.

Wind
- Strong southerly winds overnight to Wednesday, at times strong to storm force on the Northern Alpine Ridge
- The wind died down during the day, becoming a mostly light to moderate southerly

Weather forecast to Thursday

There will be widespread precipitation during Wednesday night. In the south, the precipitation will end during the second half of the night, while in the north it will continue until the late morning. As the day progresses, it will brighten rapidly in the west and south. In the east, it will remain cloudy with light snowfall. The snowfall level will be around 1000 m in the south and will drop to around 600 m in the north.

Fresh snow
From Wednesday evening to Thursday afternoon, the following amounts will fall above 1000 m:
- Northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons: 10 to 20 cm
- Elsewhere a widespread 5 to 10 cm, less on the southern flank of the Alps

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around -6 °C in the north and -3 °C in the south

Wind
- In the north, moderate to strong westerly winds at times during the night, with light to moderate westerly to northwesterly winds during the day
- Light to moderate northerly wind in the south, with a brief but strong northerly foehn wind

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Outlook to Saturday

In the west and north, it will be variably cloudy and some precipitation will fall at times. The snowfall level will be around 800 m. Between 5 and 15 cm of snow is expected to fall by Saturday afternoon, with 20 cm in westernmost Lower Valais on the border with France and in western Jura. Mostly sunny in the south and south-east but only partly sunny in Ticino on Saturday. There will be a moderate and occasionally strong westerly wind in the north on Friday, but elsewhere the wind will be mostly light to moderate.
The avalanche danger may increase slightly, especially in the west. Elsewhere it will hardly change. Even in the south, the avalanche danger is only slowly decreasing due to the weak old snowpack and the situation for off-piste snow sports remains critical.