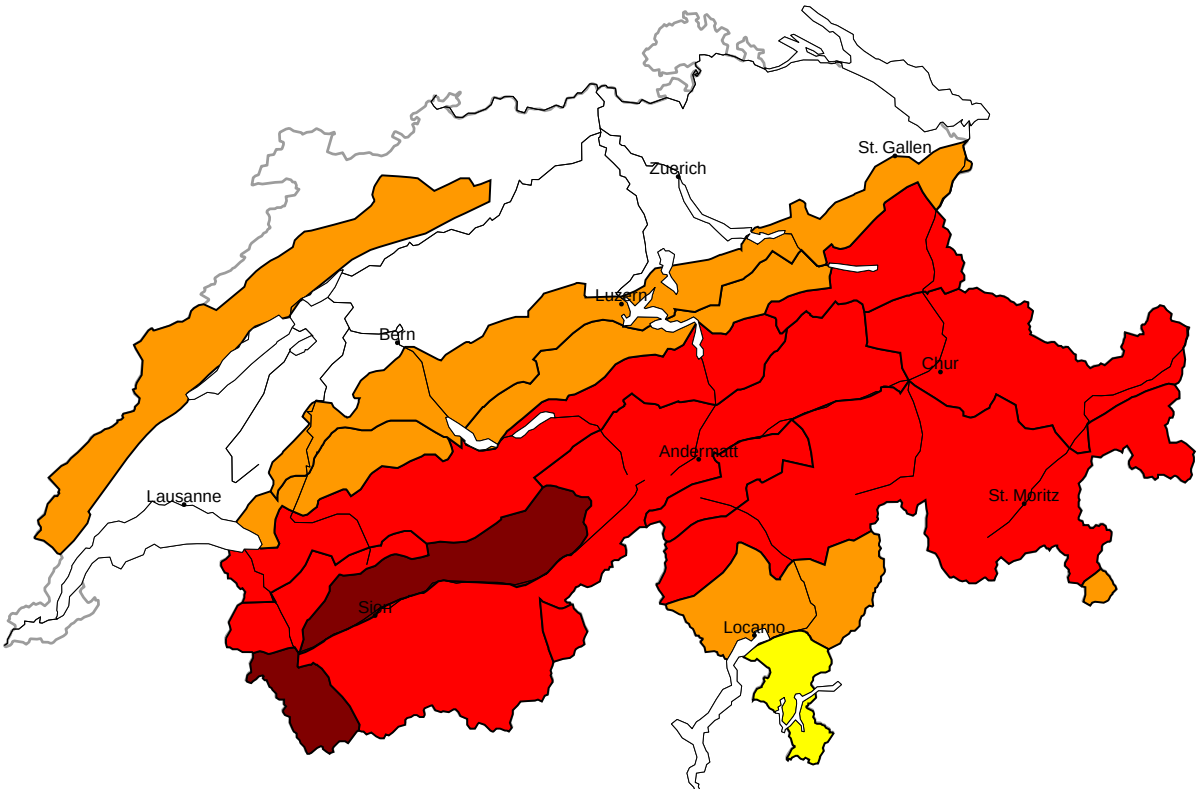
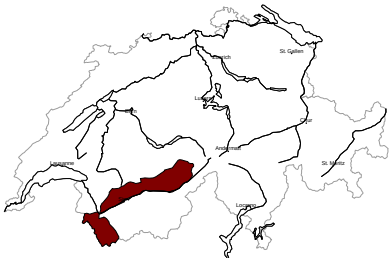
Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 17. February 2026

Avalanche danger

updated on 17.2.2026, 08:00

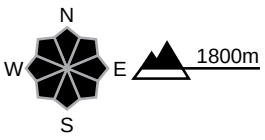


region A — Very high (5-)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations

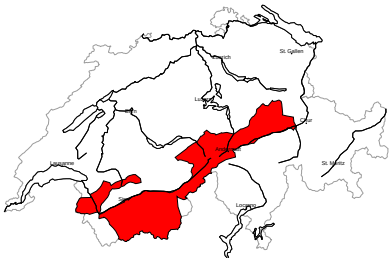


Danger description

More snow than expected fell during the night. Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are very prone to triggering. Avalanches can release deeper layers of the snowpack. Numerous very large natural avalanches are to be expected. Extremely large natural avalanches are possible. Avalanches can reach low altitudes in particular in the typical avalanche paths. Exposed transportation routes and exposed settlements are endangered.
It is inadvisable to engage in backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

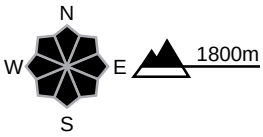
Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 considerable 4 high 5 very high

region B — High (4+)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

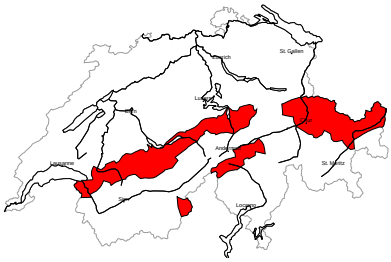
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

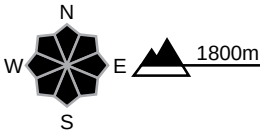
Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are very prone to triggering. Avalanches can release deeper layers of the snowpack. Numerous very large natural avalanches are to be expected. Individual extremely large natural avalanches are possible. Exposed transportation routes are endangered in the majority of cases. Exposed settlements can be endangered.
The conditions are very dangerous for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

region C — High (4=)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



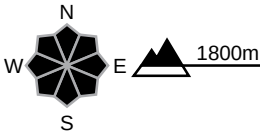
Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are very prone to triggering. Avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack. Numerous natural avalanches are to be expected. In the typical avalanche paths they can reach very large size and endanger transportation routes that are exposed. Avalanches can in many places be released easily. The conditions are dangerous for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

region D — High (4-)

New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are very prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released easily or triggered naturally. Avalanches can also release deeper layers of the snowpack. The danger exists in particular in alpine snow sports terrain. Numerous medium-sized and large natural avalanches are to be expected. In isolated cases, however, very large avalanches capable of endangering exposed parts of transportation routes are also possible.
The conditions are critical for backcountry touring and other off-piste activities outside marked and open pistes.

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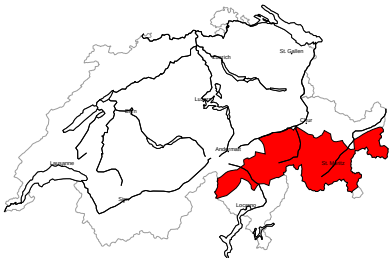
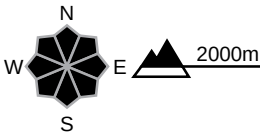
region E — High (4-)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

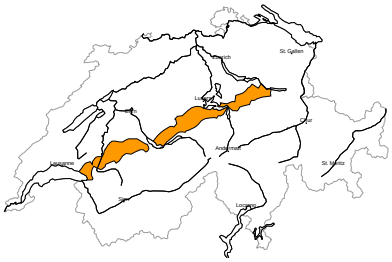
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

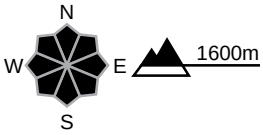
The new snow and wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can occur easily or triggered naturally. They can be triggered in near-ground layers and reach large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are to be expected. The avalanche prone locations are prevalent.
The danger 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 critical for backcountry touring outside marked and open pistes.

region F — Considerable (3+)



New snow, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



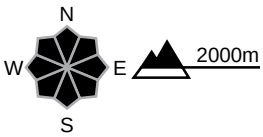
Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and strong wind the wind slabs will increase in size additionally. The new snow and wind slabs are prone to triggering. Avalanches can be released, even by a single winter sport participant. They can in some cases penetrate deep layers and reach large size. Natural avalanches are possible.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and caution.

region G — Considerable (3+)

Wind slab, Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Avalanches can be released easily. They can be triggered in deep layers and reach large size in isolated cases. The avalanche prone locations are prevalent. 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.

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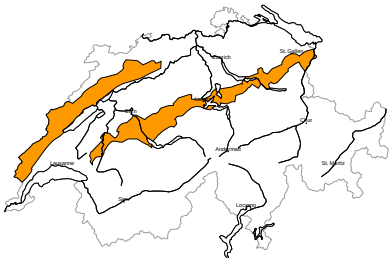
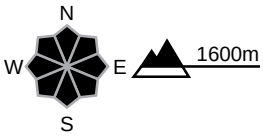
region H

Considerable (3=)



New snow

Avalanche prone locations

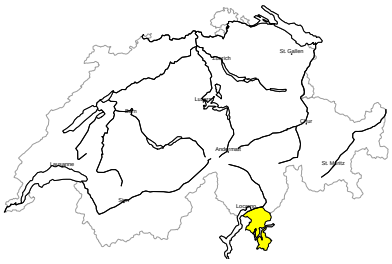


Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong northwesterly wind, further wind slabs will form. The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days can be released easily. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant and reach medium size. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

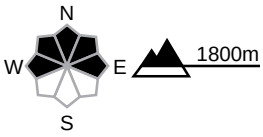
region I

Moderate (2+)



Persistent weak layers

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Weak layers exist in the snowpack in particular on west, north and east facing slopes. Avalanches can in some places be released by a single winter sport participant. In particular on shady slopes these can penetrate even deep layers and reach medium size.
Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for careful route selection.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.2.2026, 17:00

Snowpack

Ongoing snowfall and sometimes storm-force westerly to northwesterly winds mean that extensive snowdrift accumulations are continuing to grow. The large amount of fresh and drifted snow is prone to triggering. Numerous naturally triggered avalanches are to be expected. These can extend down to deeper layers of the snowpack and become very large, especially on the northern Alpine ridge, in Valais, in the Gotthard region, in northern Grisons and in the Lower Engadine north of the Inn. Isolated extremely large avalanches are also possible, especially in western and northern Valais.
In other parts of northern and central Ticino and Grisons, layers of fresh and drifted snow are lying on an unstable old snowpack with pronounced weak layers. Naturally triggered avalanches, mostly medium and large in size, are to be expected here too. Avalanches can very easily be triggered by human activity, even from a relatively large distance.

Weather review for Monday

There was widespread snowfall, with persistent snowfall in the north, Valais and Val Bedretto. Only in the far south did conditions remain mostly dry. The snowfall level rose to around 1500 m during the night in the north and west and was around 1000 m during the day.

Fresh snow
From Sunday evening to Monday afternoon above approximately 1800 m:
- northern Alpine ridge from the Chablais to the Glarus Alps, extreme west of Lower Valais, central Valais, Goms, Val Bedretto: 40 to 60 cm
- rest of the northern flank of the Alps, rest of northern Grisons, Lower Engadine north of the Inn, rest of Valais, rest of northern Ticino: 20 to 40 cm
- elsewhere, a widespread 10 to 20 cm, less in the far south

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m, around -4 °C

Wind
Strong in the north and Valais, moderate in Grisons and Ticino from westerly directions

Weather forecast to Tuesday

Widespread snowfall down to low altitudes, mostly on the northern Alpine ridge, in Valais and northern Grisons. The showery nature of the precipitation means that snow volumes will be distributed unevenly. Conditions will be very sunny in the far south.

Fresh snow
From Monday afternoon to Tuesday afternoon above approximately 1800 m:
- northern Alpine ridge, northern Grisons, Lower Engadine north of the Inn and Valais excluding areas on the main Alpine ridge from the Saas Valley to southern Goms: 40 to 60 cm
- western Jura, rest of the northern flank of the Alps, main Alpine ridge from the Saas Valley to southern Goms, Val Bedretto, central Grisons, rest of the Engadine: 20 to 40 cm
- elsewhere less or dry

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m -7 °C in the north and -5 °C in the south

Wind
Strong to storm-force northwesterly

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Outlook to Thursday

On Wednesday, 10 to 20 cm of snow will fall in the north and west, less elsewhere. There will be sunny spells in the far south. The snowfall level will rise to around 1400 m. Thursday will be mostly cloudy. Some snow will fall above around 1000 m, mainly in the west and southern Grisons. Amounts of precipitation for Thursday are still uncertain. There will be moderate to strong westerly winds on both days.
As the snowfall subsides on Tuesday evening, the number of naturally triggered avalanches will decrease. However, the avalanche situation will remain critical on Wednesday. Isolated naturally triggered avalanches are still possible and may be very large especially in the north and in Valais. Exposed transportation routes may be at risk. Avalanche danger will decrease slightly in many places on Thursday. However, the weak snowpack structure means that this decrease will be particularly slow in southern Valais, Ticino and Grisons. Conditions for touring and off-piste skiing remain critical in many places.